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THURSDAY, JULY 8TH, 2010

Council audit committee to probe new rules for school meals that could mean....

'NO DINNER MONEY, NO DINNER!' – WARNING

THE chairman of the scrutiny committee that protects children and young people in Bridgend is to investigate new procedures brought in to deal with parents who fail to pay for school meals.

Coun Peter Foley said he would look into how the issue of arrears is dealt with after The GEM drew the new system to his attention.

A report to this week's audit committee has revealed that after a child has had 10 school dinners which parents have not paid for, the child is no longer given a hot meal, but instead has a sandwich and a bottle of water.

This arrangement lasts a further five days, but the parent is billed as though the child has had a full dinner.

If payment has still not been received, no further meals are given to the child and the parent is told that if they do not pay the outstanding money, they must send a packed lunch or take their child home for a meal at lunchtimes.

This report to the audit committee follows a case earlier in the year in which a school failed to collect dinner money owing, building up thousands of pounds worth of arrears.

GEM EXCLUSIVE
by JAYNE ISAAC

The new system has been introduced as a result of that case and it applies only to primary schools.

It started at the beginning of the summer term.

Under the old system, a child would have been allowed up to 15 hot meals while payment was being sought. After that, no further meals were provided.

Under the new system, schools can only supply a hot meal for a maximum of ten days.

A series of letters is also sent to parents during this period, asking them to pay the arrears.

At the end of the 15 days, the school must refer the matter to the authority, which will then pursue the debt.

During the 2009-10 financial year, arrears of only £3,030 built up – out of a total of £1.3m worth of school meals provided; older unpaid debts bring the total owing to £8,797.

Coun Peter Foley said that he knew nothing about the new system: "I will be looking into this with the scrutiny department. We had a discussion only this week on the take-up of free school meals and the fact that more people could be eligible than are actually claiming.

"I will want to be certain that there is a system in place to inform parents who get into difficulties with paying for school meals, about their possible eligibility for free school meals.

"The committee was not convinced that the present arrangements were working as well as they should, especially if a parent's circumstances change because they lose their job or whatever," he commented.

Coun Foley added that he would like contact to be made with parents to ensure that they are aware of their rights.

The report on free school meals, which went to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on Monday, was concerned about possible stigma attached to children who have free meals.

The number of children taking free meals has decreased by 10 per cent over the previous year.

Mr Foley said that he would be interested to find out if giving a child a sandwich and a drink while all the others had a meal would lead to them being stigmatised as the children of parents who had failed to pay for their meals.

• *What do parents feel? Write to us at the address on page 2.*

Supporting our local Dogs Trust!



ABOVE:
Sunday may have been the day when the long spell of sunny weather decided to take a break – but that didn't stop dog lovers from getting together to support their favourite canine charity. (See page 11 for a report and lots more photographs by MANDY THOMAS).

... and a shake-up for the meals on Wheels service

by JAYNE ISAAC

A SHAKE-UP in the Meals on Wheels service in Bridgend is on the cards.

Proposals are currently being put together which could see seven co-driver posts axed as part of a bid to save £100,000 in the current financial year.

Each meal receives a subsidy of £3.40p and the council currently provides about 1200 meals a week to 305 customers.

The Meals on Wheels issue proved to be a political hot potato at the last council elections after the ruling Rainbow Alliance coalition deferred a review on the options amid Labour allegations that they planned to drastically reduce the scheme.

Now, a report presented to last week's Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee from corporate director for Wellbeing, Abigail Harris, stated that the adult care budget for this year includes a requirement to save £103,520 on the meals on wheels service.

These savings can only be achieved by cutting costs, increasing charges, or a combination of both.

The report lists a number of options to hit the savings target.

These include:

● Introducing invoicing for the meals. This would mean that no cash was handled by staff and would also mean that one person could man the van instead of two.

The double manning was brought in for security reasons. One driver could then be employed to deliver meals only.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE MUST BE SOCIETY'S PRIORITY

THE measure of a decent society is how well it protects its most vulnerable members.

In this country, we have made huge strides in recognising that everyone has fundamental rights that cannot be taken away, regardless of religion, sexuality, race, background, wealth or education.

Despite such progress, however, more still can be done to ensure that our community is as inclusive and vibrant as possible.

Over the past decades, laws, aimed at removing unfair barriers to healthcare, employment, social security and public life for many ethnic and social minority groups have been enacted.

Legislation such as the Race Relations Acts, Disability Discrimination Act, and Employment Equality regulations have all contributed to the legal and social landscape in which we live.

I am proud of this history, and especially proud of the Equality Act 2010, which was brought in by the previous Labour government to consolidate a lot of this law into one powerful document.

These measures all combine to shape our society into one which is inclusive and caring, and one in which discrimination and abuse of vulnerable groups is both immoral and illegal.

Thankfully, a strong community and keen policing in the Bridgend area mean that this topic isn't a major concern for a lot of older people. Nonetheless, there are four types of crimes that older or vulnerable people could experience.

Firstly, they could be subject to abuse or neglect by someone they trust (either in their own home or care home).

Secondly, they could experience crimes which are specifically targeted at them because they are perceived as vulnerable or easy to steal from (such as muggings or distraction burglaries).

Thirdly, there are crimes that aren't initially related to the victim's age or disability, but later become so (for example, when a burglar doesn't know the householder but later finds out and exploits the situation).

Finally, there are crimes which are motivated either partly or wholly by hostility to the victim's age or disability, which may include harassment or antisocial behaviour.

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.



The Police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) are responsible for considering prosecution of cases using equalities legislation and have written specific guidance for staff on handling crimes against vulnerable and supporting older people who are victims and witnesses of crime.

The two agencies work closely together to identify prosecutable cases early on and to offer support to witnesses and victims throughout the process.

Working together with specialist advocacy services for older people, Victim Support, or independent mental capacity advocates, they have a range of programmes designed to help vulnerable people through their experience of the criminal justice system.

Examples of such programmes include the Prosecutor's Pledge, which requires prosecutors to always provide enough time for older people to respond to questions.

Similarly, the Victim's Code allows people who may find giving evidence confusing or intimidating to give their evidence in different ways.

These include via 'Personal Statements' which can be read out in court and allow the victim to express their feelings without fear.

Other special measures include allowing victims and witnesses to give evidence away from court through a live video link or to clear the public gallery in the courtroom.

Prosecutors are also willing in certain cases to meet with victims and witnesses to reassure them that their needs will be met and to build their trust and confidence.

The person can bring a relative, carer, interpreter or similar person with them to that meeting and the CPS will ensure that the advocate conducting the trial is also at the meeting.

A visit to the courtroom can also be arranged for witnesses so that they are familiar with the set-up of the day.

All of these measures are designed to enable vulnerable people to feel supported and confident throughout the process.

Being a victim or witness of a crime is something that no one should experience, so it is vital that we make the criminal justice process as stress-free as possible for people – especially those that are vulnerable.

I hope that crime will continue to fall in the Bridgend area and that fewer people need to become involved in the criminal justice system.

For me, the priority is ensuring that people of whatever age feel confident in seeking justice, help and support.

If you find yourself a victim or witness of crime, there are lots of organisations that can offer information and support to you.

The Disability Advice Centre www.dls.org.uk or Age UK can be contacted on 0800 169 6565 or online www.ageuk.org.uk offer advice.

Similarly, Action on Elder Abuse offers advice and support to anyone concerned that abuse may be taking place. Their helpline number is 0808 808 8141 or online at www.elderabuse.org.uk

If you would like general advice, you can contact Victim Support on 0845 3030 900, or online at www.victimsupport.org.uk.

Ogmore AM meets 'Breathe Easy' group



Janice Gregory AM meets Heather Day (left), Myrddyn Jones (centre) and Allan Bayliss (right) at the Assembly event

OGMORE AM, Janice Gregory, has met members of the Bridgend Breathe Easy group at the British Lung Foundation Wales' annual 'Meet the Patients' event at the Assembly.

Along with Myrddin Jones from Sarn and Allan Bayliss from Nantymoel whom she had met at previous events, she met Heather Day from Pencoed.

The event was designed to highlight the British Lung Foundation's call for a local pulmonary rehabilitation service for all patients who need it across Wales and shorter waiting times for it.

Pulmonary rehabilitation is a course, delivered with input from doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, dieticians and occupational therapists that helps people manage their lung condition with confidence.

Research has proved that successful pulmonary rehabilitation can reduce both the number of emergency hospital admissions and the overall number of days spent in hospital for people with respiratory problems.

Janice Gregory said: "Pulmonary rehab is good for patients – improving their health and confidence – and good for the NHS, reducing hospital admissions and the time spent in hospital. I was glad of the chance to hear from Myrddin, Allan and Heather – and I am looking forward to going to the July meeting of their Bridgend Breathe Easy group.

"The group provides a social network for patients and they discuss a wide range of subjects at their meetings from beekeeping to the work of the Assembly.

"They are always glad to see new faces and the meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday, July 20 at the Council Pavilion, Litchard Playing Field.

" I hope there will be a good turn-out."

'Be more aware of the deaf' – MP

DURING Deaf Awareness Week, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon called on constituents to help remove communication barriers faced by people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The MP was at a deaf awareness reception in the Commons organised by the UK Council on Deafness and supported by RNID and the National Deaf Children's Society.

She commented: "Many shops, services and residents in Bridgend may not realise the barriers faced by people who are deaf or hard of hearing and how small changes, such as holding face-to-face conversations in well lit places, can significantly improve communication.

"I encourage others to join me in learning about the communication needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing."

Chair of UKCoD, Susan Daniels, said: "We're urging everyone in Bridgend to follow Madeleine's example and improve their everyday communication with people who are deaf or hard of hearing."

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
08 Thur	03.41	7.8	16.16	8.1
09 Fri	04.43	8.1	17.11	8.4
10 Sat	05.39	8.6	18.06	9.0
11 Sun	06.37	9.1	18.59	9.5
12 Mon	07.29	9.6	19.44	9.9
13 Tues	08.12	9.9	20.38	10.2
14 Wed	09.05	9.9	21.18	10.3
15 Thur	09.49	9.8	22.02	10.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend 01656 654951
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111 ***(Emergency number 999)***
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs: DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS (Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service (General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643** (outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES (general enquiries) **01656 642200** (outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**
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GHOST WALKERS CHECK OUT NOTTAGE!

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

PORTHCAWL'S paranormal private eye, Hayley Williams, recently led a group of walkers around the ancient village of Nottage, looking for lingering spirits and residual ectoplasm to mark the summer solstice.

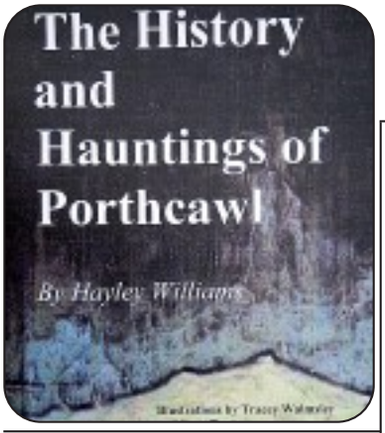
Hayley and co-author Tracey Walmsley have already collected enough material for a second book about ghostly goings-on in Porthcawl, and this is set to be published in November.



ABOVE: Ghost walkers assembled outside the Swan Inn, Nottage.



ABOVE: Ghost walkers en-route past the Farmers, Nottage.



Hayley and Tracey's book.

Rebecca is the most popular young woman in Wales

IT'S OFFICIAL!

BRIDGEND-BORN, Rebecca Hearne (22), fought off 48 rivals to win the public's vote as the most popular young lady in Wales.

She received the prize at a glittering show in St David's Hall, Cardiff.

The title of Miss Wales went to Courtenay Hamilton (20), from Llantwit Major. The runners up were Summer Ghanavati (20), from Cardiff and Jamie-Lee Williams (24), from Powys.

Rebecca said: "I can't believe how many people voted for me to win the public vote. I'm really chuffed and want to thank everyone who voted. The Miss Wales competition has been a fantastic experience and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Even though I didn't place, I have made some great friends and would recommend it to anyone."

She and the other entrants took part in an interview round, Welsh wear round, party wear round and evening wear round and were judged by Mister Wales 2009 Mark Tancock, Miss Wales 2008 and Miss UK 2008 Chloe Beth Morgan, ITV Wales presenter Matt Johnson and Glamorgan Cricketer Adam Shantry, amongst other judges.



Rebecca Hearne (on right) collects her award.

Entries are already open for the Miss Wales 2011 competition. Visit www.misterwales.co.uk

Applicants should be Welsh (or have lived in Wales for six months). They should be between 17 to 24 years old and never have married or had children.

Where sheep may not safely graze

A FLOCK of 60 sheep constantly roam through Caerau and Nantyffyllon wrecking gardens and leaving a trail of droppings, according to Coun Ken Hunt.

He asked the borough council to take action to alleviate the problem.

In his question, Coun Hunt said that the sheep also pose highway dangers and some have been killed. The farmer blames the council for not repairing a section of fencing along his land which enables them to get out.

Coun Hunt said that the fence is broken adjacent to the football field at Evans Terrace because players break it down to retrieve their balls.

He said that the farmer had agreed that a stile could be erected to enable the players to get into the field without breaking the fence but the work has not been done.

He also pointed out that the council no longer employs a shepherd to round up stray animals and take them to the council pound.

He asked what action the council intended to take.

The response stated that the farmer has a right to put the sheep on his land and that the fence in question is owned by the council. It has been repaired in the past but is broken again because of footballs being kicked onto the farmland.

A stile is now being sourced from the Public Rights of Way team and will be erected in the next few weeks.

However, officers question whether the hole in the council's fence is the only route that the sheep use to get out of their land.

Free Wi-Fi for library users

FROM July 19, members of Bridgend County Borough Council's Library and Information Service will be able to enjoy free Wi-Fi at 11 libraries throughout the county borough.

Organised by BCBC's library and information service, in partnership with The Cloud, library users will be able to use their Wi-Fi enabled laptop, PDA or mobile phone at libraries in Aberkenfig, Bettws, Bridgend, Maesteg, Ogmore Vale, Pencoed, Porthcawl, Pyle, Sarn, Coed Parc Reference and Information Library and Y Llynfi Library, Maesteg.

Plans on view for Llynfi Valley

TWO new schemes designed to encourage people in the Llynfi Valley to walk and cycle more are being revealed at public exhibitions organised by Bridgend County Borough Council.

The exhibitions will be held at Maesteg Comprehensive and Caerau Primary School where officers from the council's transportation section will be available to answer questions.

Meetings were held at the Comprehensive School; Maesteg, on July 5 and at Caerau Primary School; on July 6.

The exhibitions at both venues are open to members of the public for the remainder of the week during normal school opening hours, in order to give local rpeople a chance to view the plans. Residents can also leave their comments.

The plans are also available to view at the Maesteg Town Hall in Talbot Street, on Friday, July 9.

£5,000 windfall for Griffin Park

A GRANT of £5,000 has been given by Porthcawl Town Council to the Griffin Park youth project in the town.

The council also gave £5,000 last year and council leader David Deere said it was agreed to continue supporting the project, based in the pavilion in the park, because it got young people off the streets and doing something interesting and beneficial.

The club has 95 members and targets youngsters at risk of committing anti-social behaviour or substance misuse. It attracts about 30 people to each session.

The project is now able to provide tennis to the young people and a five-a-side football area has also been set aside in the park.

The project also works with the Sports Council for Wales to offer activities like surfing, biking, rock climbing, canoeing and kayaking for youngsters aged from 11 to 25.

The centre has also been selected by the Safer Bridgend Partnership to offer late night provision on Friday and Saturday evenings to cut down on youth annoyance in the community.

The centre is open four evenings a week but without funding from Porthcawl, this would have been cut to two evenings.

Brackla concert

BRACKLA Community Chorus Choir presents a summer concert on Friday July 9 in Brackla Community Centre at 7.30pm with guests, Archbishop McGrath RC School Orchestra. Tickets £3 available at the door.

Music Event

THE Porthcawl Music Event, which was cancelled because of bad weather, has been re-scheduled for Sunday, August 8, at Cosy Corner from 1pm to 6pm.

PENSIONERS TO GET HELP WITH COUNCIL TAX...

PENSIONERS living in Bridgend county borough are to get help with their council tax – thanks to the Welsh Assembly Government.

BCBC has been allocated £166,159 by the Welsh Assembly Government to distribute to pensioners in the area who are aged 65 or older and are liable for council tax.

The council has the freedom to determine its own scheme of distribution and after considering all the options, the cabinet has decided to allocate most of the money in a flat rate payment of a maximum of £75 per household for all pensioners who do not receive council tax benefit.

This will help pensioners on modest incomes or with modest savings who miss out on means tested benefits.

It will be simple to administer and applicants will only have to produce proof of age. It will also help identify those people who should be getting council tax benefit.

But as the scheme would not necessarily give enough help to the neediest pensioners, it was also agreed that £5,000 be set aside to create a hardship fund which would make specific one-off payments to pensioners in need of assistance.

This will also be simple to administer.

There are between 9,000 and 12,000 pensioner households within BCBC. The council will only be able to spend up to the grant received and the administration costs must be less than £5,000 which is what the Assembly has granted them.

Pencoed flower arrangement

The Pencoed flower arrangement society belongs to the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies and this year is the 50th anniversary.

The area isall of south Wales, as well as the three counties of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester).

The occasion is being celebrated by all societies taking part in a Golden Heritage Festival of Flowers at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff on August 5, 6 and 7. Tickets are £6 on the door. Children under 16 admitted free. Two members of Pencoed FAS will stage an exhibit on behalf of the society.

The next session of the society will begin on September 20, at 7pm in Pencoed College, and includes enrolment and BYO buffet.

Everyone is welcome. Contact 01656 657796 for further details.

County borough council to identify energy wastage

BRIDGEND County Borough Council spent £4.8m on gas and electricity in 2009 – plus a further £579,000 on water.

These answers were given to Coun David Unwin who asked about energy efficiency schemes and the amount of money saved by the council.

He was told that the council operates at 291 different sites and has 423 electricity supplies, 237 gas supplies, seven oil supplies, seven liquid gas supplies and 290 water supplies.

The council saved £184,000 in 2009 by adopting good housekeeping advice for energy and water usage.

Adjustments have been made to heating schedules and wastage checks have been carried out to see if equipment was being left on when buildings were unoccupied.

The council has also discovered that some buildings have high electricity usage and the cause of this is being investigated.

The top 20 per cent of buildings which use the most energy and water are to be targeted as having the greatest potential for energy reduction.

Intelligent meters are to be installed to assist the council's energy management unit to significantly improve the energy and cost performance of buildings.

These will give half hourly readings on consumption, daily meter readings and will help identify energy wastage.

The use of these meters can save between five and 10 per cent of energy consumed which would work out at up to £172,000 for gas and up to £297,000 for electricity.

'Crisis talks over refuse collection'

– CLAIM DENIED BY COUNCIL

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

CLAIMS that crisis meetings have been taking place this week to deal with problems arising from the new recycling and refuse collection service in Bridgend have been strongly denied by the borough council.

Borough councillor Phil White of Caerau told Maesteg Town Council at its meeting on Tuesday that cabinet member John Spanswick, Communities director Louise Fradd and the boss of May Gurney, who are the contractors, have held "crisis meetings" in a bid to find solutions to complaints about how the new service, which started in June, is running.

Problems with the service were raised at the meeting by Coun Phil Jenkins, who said that many people had not been given the recycling bags and boxes necessary.

"I understand that the items are on order but we have no idea when they will arrive. People are using black bags instead but they are not being picked up."

Borough councillor Colin Teesdale said that council phone lines were "full" with residents complaining about the service: "But it is early days and Bridgend are brand leaders.

"We are leading the way with recycling. It is not running perfectly but it will happen, although more time is needed."

Coun Phil White said that there were problems in certain areas. He went on: "John Spanswick met Louise Fradd and May Gurney yesterday (Monday) for a crisis meeting and the managing director of May Gurney was coming down today (Tuesday) to look at the problem and see what can be done to resolve it."

However, the council's recycling figures had already increased to 60 per cent – well on the way to the target of recycling 80 per cent of waste by 2020: "We have one of the highest figures in Wales," he added.

There were problems at Sarn last week and Coun Pat Penpraze said that a whole estate was not picked up.

"People living in the flats at Jubilee Crescent were not given recycling equipment and told to use the black bags. Fair play, they did that, but the bags were not picked up.

"They left out a whole estate which is ridiculous. Those bags have been left lying around for a week – they had still not been collected on Tuesday night and I will be checking to see if they go on Wednesday, which is the normal collection day," she vowed.

Mrs Penpraze said that she had spent three days on the phone to the council and May Gurney in a bid to sort out the problems and was disappointed that nobody had been sent to collect the bags.

Coun Penpraze said that there was a lack of communication between the officers in Bridgend and the operatives of May Gurney.

"We only have a black bag collection once every two weeks, so when the boys saw black bags out last week, which was not a collection week, they just left them," she said.

"They were obviously not told that the bags contained recycling. There seems to be no communication at all."

She added: "I don't see how they will cope unless they have more lorries and more workmen."

The GEM also understands that more than 1,000 houses in Brackla were left off the collection routes last week.

Former council leader Cheryl Green said that a whole street in Laleston was left out last week and she knew other councillors had reported similar problems. The collectors had been out as late as 7pm picking up recycling.

"They are working long hours at the moment," she added.

Coun Ken Hunt, who chairs the Scrutiny Committee involved, said he was unaware of any crisis meetings and nobody had updated him on what was happening.

"Nobody has approached me about this, but I know there are hiccups. However, I feel that the recycling initiative has had a good response so far."

A council spokesman denied that any crisis talks have taken place and said that daily monitoring meetings are being held.

He said that the service was performing well.

He went on: "With a 60 per cent recycling rate achieved against a Welsh national average of 51 per cent in the last week alone, there has been a huge response to the new scheme and people are really getting behind it and showing their support.

"This is a huge initiative, involving more than 60,000 homes. With a scheme of this size, daily meetings are being held between May Gurney and the council so that we can monitor progress, highlight areas where it is working well and, if necessary, make adjustments where there are teething issues."

The spokesman added that as far as the problem reported in Jubilee Crescent in Sarn is concerned, areas which have flats and access issues have been told to continue putting all their waste into black bags on a weekly basis.

They will be collected and taken to the MREC centre where the waste will be sorted.

Affected residents will be contacted soon with details of how they can take part in the recycling scheme.



The St John's toddlers.

LITTLE ONES TODDLE TO HELP BARNARDOS

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN



ABOVE: The chef and her catering team.

A CHARITY walk for toddlers which started in Porthcawl now takes place all around Wales, and local little ones stepped out recently to do their bit.

Margaret John and Liz Singer called it the 'Toddlers Walk' back then, but is now known as 'The Big Toddle' and infants are sponsored to raise funds for Barnardo's by taking part in locally organised walks.

The walk in Porthcawl was carried out in the grounds of St. John's School, Newton, and the toddlers taking part came from St John's infants and from Little Footsteps Nursery, Rest Bay.

The route followed the perimeters of three of the big playing fields in the school and finished, appropriately enough, in the dining hall.

Here, a truly scrumptious tea had been laid on for the walkers by the chef and her catering team, and it was greatly appreciated by the toddlers.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.



Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

SUMMER CONCERT

BRACKLA Community Chorus is holding its summer concert at Brackla Community Centre, Whitethorn Drive, Bridgend, on Friday July 9 at 7pm.

The concert always provides a platform for a local school to allow their pupils to display their talent. This time the school is the Archbishop McGrath Roman Catholic School, with the orchestra conducted by Glyn Price. Tickets (£3) are on sale at the door.

The choir rehearses at the community centre on Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm, and new members are welcome.

Noteworthy choir

NOTEWORTHY Mixed Voice Choir, under musical director Ryan Wood, is performing at a concert to raise money for cancer research, with soprano Angharad Lisabeth Rees, winner of the National Eisteddfod in 2008, and the Vivace Singers, a female group. It takes place at St Michael's Church, Maesteg on Saturday, July 10, at 7pm.

Blackmill fete

THE annual fete and garden party organised by the Ogmore Valley Ladies Choir and Society is taking place at Factory House, Blackmill, on Tuesday, July 13, between 12 noon and 5pm. All money raised will be donated to MacMillan Nurses, the society's nominated charity for the year.

On sale are hand crafted items, along with tasty home baked produce. The society thanks Coun Clive and Mrs Lydia Davies for use of their home and garden.

Church events

A TABLE top sale and coffee morning is being held at St Tyfodwg's Church, Glynogwr, on July 17 between 11am and 3pm.

Everyone is welcome and admission is free. There will be an evensong and Eucharist service at the church on Sunday, July 11, at 5pm.

There is a strawberry and cream tea party, along with a quiz, at St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid, on July 17 starting at 2.30pm. Tickets are £5 and all proceeds are to be donated to the Marie Curie cancer care charity.

Financial advice

A CHARITY named TOP which operates in conjunction with Age Concern and Citizens' Advice Bureau is to open a surgery at Pencoed library on Tuesday, July 13, and on a monthly basis thereafter.

The professional advice it offers is free to elderly persons who have difficulty in sorting their financial affairs with the Inland Revenue,

For more information, telephone 0845 601 3321.

Elderly outings

ABERKENFIG Retired Persons Club will be taking members on a day trip each month through the summer.

Recently, 32 members and friends had a free trip to Weston-Super-Mare. It was a lovely day weatherwise, but members were disappointed that they were unable to go onto the pier because of renovation work following the disastrous fire two years ago.

The club was again entertained at their meeting place by pupils of class 4 from Tondu Primary School. Mrs Tuck their teacher had the pupils demonstrate the theme of healthy eating and exercise.

The club meets at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, every Wednesday afternoon.

More information can be obtained by phoning Joyce/Tom on 01656 720823/720026.

Choirs in harmony

GARW Valley male choir joined the band of the South Wales Police and the Bay Choir of Swansea in a concert at Bridgend Recreation Centre to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion.

The concert included 'Soldier's Chorus' from Gounod's *Faust,* Carl Jenkins 'Adiemus' followed by 'Calon Lân' written by Daniel James who lived in Herbert Street, Blaengarw, at the time.

The concert concluded with the band and choirs performing John Tudor Davies's arrangement of 'Gwahoddiad'. All proceeds were donated to the Help for Heroes fund.

The choir extended good wishes to four choristers Peter Hopkins, Harold James, Ken Moyle and Jeff Walsh who are all unwell.

The choir rehearses at Pontycymer Rugby Club on Monday and Wednesdays. Information can be obtained from Dixie on 01656 870304, or on www.cormeibioncwmgarw.co.uk

Leaving play

TONDU Primary School's year-6 pupils will be holding their school leaving play tomorrow, July 9, at 10.20am, and relatives of the pupils are welcome to go along.

The school has been involved with Pandy Infants School, along with representatives of the community to develop a citizenship award scheme.

This has so impressed other local schools that the scheme is being carried on by the Community Focused Schools team. It helps the pupils understand how they as individuals can make a contribution to their homes, school and the community at large.

There will be a presentation of awards at Aberkenfig Bible Church on Wednesday, July 14, at 2pm; admission to ticket holders only.

The school is holding a discotheque for pupils on Wednesday, July 14, between 6pm and 7.30pm. Relatives of pupils in Mrs Evans class are asked to accompany the children for the evening.

Wife forgives husband who attacked her with breadknife

by AJ SICLUNA

AFTER drinking more than a bottle of vodka, an unemployed computer engineer attacked his wife of 13 years armed with a breadknife, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Garth Oelofse (41) of Tondu, a South African national, came up behind his wife Susan Oelofse and drew the knife across her face, cutting her lip and cheek, and also cutting her throat, said prosecutor Ruth Smith.

Oelofse, a man with no previous convictions, admitted a charge of wounding and was sentenced to 36 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Oelofse, who had already been in custody for 72 days, was told by Recorder Christopher Clee: "It does not seem that a huge amount will be achieved by returning you to prison."

He added: "I hope never to see you again, and I wish you all the best in the future."

Ms Smith said that on April 16, Mrs Oelofse returned home from work to find her husband drunk.

"It was an ongoing pattern for three years since he lost his job. He would drink most days and sometimes binge drink." said Ms Smith.

"He said he had drunk a bottle of vodka, had left the house and had even more to drink."

It was then, said Ms Smith, that he attacked her with the knife. She elbowed him away and escaped to a neighbour and called the police.

Oelofse also called the police and an ambulance and said he had cut his wife.

He told the police: "She drove me to it."

He indicated he was on medication, should not have been drinking and could not recollect the attack.

Ms Smith said his wife was supportive, had been shaken by the incident but had never experienced violence before.

The court was told that she later said she wanted to withdraw her complaint and still loved her husband.

Oelofse's counsel, Owen Williams, said: "He asked the police to arrest him. Frankly, he can't remember committing the offence and is deeply ashamed of what he has done.

"There may well be a reconciliation, and she has forgiven him."

Once again, the crowds are out to support Mair's Walk across the Stepping Stones!

THIS year's Mair's Walk, staged once again in aid of Velindre Hospital and the Lung Cancer Appeal, attracted a great turnout of walkers.

As The GEM went to press, walkers were still collecting their sponsorship money, but it is clear that the event is going from strength to strength.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting: e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk telephone 01446 773225.





























BEACH CLEAN GIVES LOCAL PUPILS A CHANCE TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

PUPILS from several Porthcawl primary schools joined local organisations recently to give Sandy Bay a thorough clean-up!

Co-ordinating the day was the Porthcawl Lifeguard Club, and also involved were Porthcawl Lions Club and the Marine Conservation Society.

After the clean-up was complete, the pupils spent time in a series of workshops which looked at the environment, and finished off with some fun beach activities.

BELOW:
All the pupils had sun cream applied by the life guards.







'LOOK HOW MUCH WE COLLECTED!'



Members of Porthcawl Lions Club doing their bit.







College students help to round up sheep for shearing!

LOCAL farmer John David, shepherd Ian Rowland and dogs Spot and Jess, were on hand to help Amelia Trust farm manager, Beth John, to round up sheep in time for the annual shearing.

Students from Bridgend College's Pencoed Campus went along to gain experience under the watchful eye of head of veterinary nursing, Dawn Lyden.

Averaging about 60 seconds to shear each sheep, it was a couple of hours before all the sheep were done and the fleeces bagged up to be taken away.



"Bit off the stomach sir?"



LEFT:
Back row: Farm manager Beth John, Dai John, Lorraine Brown, John David, Student Pippa Lyden, Diane Lyden, Ian Rowland, Spot.
Front row: Matthew Beynon, Tristan Clarke, Geraint Jones and Rachel Beynon.



ABOVE: The school assembly and their new Green Flag

Green flag for local school – and two celebrity visitors!

AFTER pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School were awarded a Green Flag for being environmentally conscious, they had two celebrity visitors!

The official hand-over of the flag was attended by Carwyn Jones AM, the First Minister, and Jane Davidson AM, Minister for the Environment..

She was welcomed by Neil Davies, headteacher, and Mrs Gretta Rogers, the chair of governors.

A major factor in receiving the award was that Mrs Barbara Hancock, the school secretary, and Mrs Angela Fyfe, a learning support officer, have run an enviroment club every Tuesday evening after school for year-6 pupils.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN





ABOVE: Headteacher, Neil Davies, welcoming Jane Davidson and Carwyn Jones to Mynydd Cynffig Junior School.



ABOVE (left to right): Craig Price, Thomas Howe, Carwyn Jones AM, Mrs Gretta Rogers (chair of governors), Jane Davidson AM, Sophie Evans and Megan Lewis.

LEFT: Setting up the Power Point display presentation that was shown to the visitors.



ABOVE: Jane Davidson answers pupils' questions.

Police probe copper wire thefts

POLICE in Maesteg are appealing for witnesses or information following thefts of earth wires from homes on North Street, Blaencaerau Road, Brynglas Terrace, Lloyd Street and Alexandra Road, overnight on Thursday July 1.

Maesteg Neighbourhood Inspector Steve Evans said:

"There have been a number of crimes involving the theft of the copper earthing wires from houses on these streets.

"The amount of copper removed in each instance is relatively little. However, the inconvenience, expense and most importantly, the danger to the householders is considerable.

"We will thoroughly investigate these thefts and will bring the perpetrator or perpetrators to justice," he warned.

Anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious in these streets on the night in question is asked to contact Inspector Steve Evans at Maesteg Police Station on 101; or anonymously via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Memories of Paul Robeson...

Choir in tune with Sir Willard at 50th birthday concert

ALL the expectations from Bridgend Male Choir's 50th birthday were realised in the past week, with planned events meeting the expectations of all.

Its celebratory dinner at the Heronston Hotel welcomed some 170 choristers, partners and guests, and it was great to hear tales of bygone days and characters associated with the choir.

Speeches were of the most popular kind – short and humorous – and delivered by choir chairman, Mansel Abraham; musical director, John Jenkins; president, Paul Porter and patron and First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM.

Regular concert compere Gareth Davies held it all together and the evening ended with 'afterglow' conductor, John Morgan leading a sing-along.

On to the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, where choristers were delighted to share the stage at their annual concert with Sir Willard White.

This excellent operatic bass/baritone entertained the sizeable audience with songs old and new, with the author's pick being *Lullaby* and *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*.

The choir joined with Sir Willard for *Still, Still, Still; Ol' Man River* and *Deep River*, the latter synonymous with the 1950s film, *Proud Valley* starring 'Welsh miners' friend' Paul Robeson and many people's favourite Welsh-born actress, Rachel Thomas.

Accomplished musical director, John Jenkins led the choir and most ably, accompanist, Laura Smith did the honours for every musical item throughout the evening.

The week concluded with the choir's support of cancer charities, entertaining the walkers at the end of their trek from Bridgend to Ogmore Village.

The popular *Mair's Walk* organised by Mair ap Gryffydd and her numerous and busy helpers provides massive financial support to very necessary research costs, if this dread disease is ever to be conquered.

Journalist and BBC presenter, Huw Edwards lent his support this year, and pledged to return again in 2011.

Long may the work of this worthy group of people continue.

Bridgend Male Choir now knuckles down to revision of its musical programme for entry into the Welsh National Eisteddfod at Ebbw Vale on August 7.

The competition is again very strong this year and choristers know they have to be at their very best if they are to repeat their success of 2004 and 2006.

DAVID T BURT

TALYGARN CENTRE'S OPEN DAY

TALYGARN Equestrian Centre holds its summer open day on Sunday, July 11, at 1pm. Riding, displays, musical ride, show jumping, gymkhana and polocrosse. Telephone 01443 225107 for full information.



THE GLAMORGAN GEM WORLD CUP ROUND-UP

Tournament's quarter finals provide plenty of excitement!



by TONY BENNETT

WELL, what a week it has been – drama of the highest order as the last eight became the last four, and most of my predictions, like so many of the pundits, went sailing out the window.

Let's start with the Tangerine Dream, no not the electronic pop group, but the Dutch football team.

What a dream of a game they came up with against Brazil. It started predictably as the boys from Brazil dominated the game and the Man City flop Robinho swept a beautiful through ball into the Dutch net early in the first half.

The Brazilian defence made sure that none of Holland's flair players were going anywhere, and dumped them, by fair means or foul, onto the turf - not pretty, but effective.

The second half started in much the same way until a somewhat hopeful looking cross from Wesley Sneijder sailed into the penalty area. The goalkeeper came to punch it, missed completely, and the ball sailed into the net.

It was lucky, but the whole game changed.

The Dutch found their one and two touch pass and move football, and a short while later a corner from the right was flicked on and Sneijder, the smallest man on the pitch, headed the ball into the Brazilian net to make it 2-1.

After that Brazil just fell apart, with one player sent off for stamping on Arjen Robben, and they finished the game in disarray.

Friday's drama was by no means over, as Ghana, Africa's last hope, took on Uruguay.

Over ninety minutes 1-1 was a fair score with both teams scoring from long range shots, but extra time became tense, with Ghana proving to be the stronger of the two teams.

In the last minute, they won a corner and when the cross came over mayhem broke out as the ball pinballed around the goalmouth - must go in, no, off the line, must go in, no, bounces up, headed in, no! Handball! A penalty and a sending off.

The last kick of the match saw Gyan, the Ghana centre forward, step up and hit the ball straight with power as the goalkeeper dived to his right.

The Jabulani ball lifted off, struck the crossbar and sailed into the night sky.

I was gutted, and I dread to think what Gyan felt like.

You just knew what was coming next and Uruguay, cool as you like, won the penalty shoot-out 4-2.

Sport can be cruel at times, but if you don't take your chance despair awaits.

Next, the stage was set on Saturday for Germany, that World Cup footballing machine, to take on Diego's boys from Argentina.

I already knew Germany were going to win because an octopus in Germany said so.

Yes, you're never going to believe it, but an octopus called Paul, who hails from England and currently resides in an aquarium in Oberhausen, Germany, has predicted the last five German results correctly.

The staff lower two tanks into the water with some food in each.

Each tank is marked with a flag and Paul opens one of the lids and climbs in.

Whichever tank he chooses wins the match and he gets a free lunch.

The German lunch must have been very good before this match because they tore into Argentina, scoring inside three minutes.

Talk about Vorsprung Durch Technik - it was certainly that.

Argentina had no answer to the German game plan and the look on Maradonna's face when the fourth German goal went in was satisfying to those of us old enough to remember the 'Hand of God' goal in Mexico 1986.

I really didn't think this German team had the experience of previous years to go all the way, but it does show what a team with a plan, that is well drilled and confident in its young players' abilities, can achieve.

That left the Spanish, who were less than convincing against Paraguay in the last quarter final.

The game only sparked into life when the referee intervened, giving Paraguay a penalty. They missed it and less than a minute later he gave another one at the other end for Spain.

They scored and he disallowed it for encroachment, so Alonso had another go and the keeper saved it.

In the scramble that followed, Fabregas was up-ended by the keeper but the referee and his assistant managed not to see it!

Finally, David Villa managed a goal late on, and Spain now play Germany.

Tuesday and Wednesday see the semi finals take place, and the winners play in the final on Sunday evening.

As for predictions, well the octopus has yet to be consulted, so who am I to say?

I just hope that come Sunday we get a match that delivers quality football and some goals would be nice as I don't think this World Cup has quite hit the mark yet.

In the meantime, I'm off to Oberhausen to see if Paul has any thoughts on the result of the 3.30pm at Ascot on Saturday!



Look back over 1990 World Cup is essential viewing for the fans

WHEN you see the overpaid mob of players that constituted the 2010 England World Cup squad laughing brazenly hours after their worst-ever World Cup defeat, it is fair to assume that many England fans would have gazed wistfully back at the 1990 World Cup.

It was the same opposition, same result, but this time in the semi final, the four goals for the then-West Germany came from a penalty shoot-out that has been engraved on the memories of English football fans ever since.

A new documentary, *One Night In Turin*, takes a look at England's tournament that started with the ignominy of a 1-1 draw with the Republic of Ireland, and ended with the heroic performance in the semi final (a game that, as many people will agree, had England won, they arguably could have gone on to lift the World Cup for the second time in history).

It begins with a look at the state of English football at that time – dilapadated stadiums, hooliganism on a grand scale that saw English teams banned from Europe following the 1985 Heysel stadium disaster; and captures the tensions of the time superbly, opening with a salvo of firebombs, fighting, and that old staple of violent outbursts, the turning over of a car.

But from there, we get a look at the England squad of the time, managed by Bobby Robson (the knighthood was yet to come), a man who was being pilloried by the press for the team's failings and who had made the cardinal sin of ensuring job security by accepting a job with PSV Eindhoven after the tournament.

The documentary is comprised mainly of talking heads of the time and footage from the games (along with narration by Gary Oldman), giving it a snapshot feel that, for someone whose first football memories were of Italia '90, makes for a warming experience.

James Erskine, the documentary's director and writer, is clever enough to give the film enough of a cinematic feel to maintain your interest and keeps the rhythm of the piece going throughout, using subtle reconstruction, on and off field footage of the squad, still images and press headlines of the day to evoke time and place.

While the campaign as a whole is looked over, Erskine picks out certain aspects for particular attention – England's adoption of the sweeper system to try and counter Holland's attacking potency, which became a huge factor in their success, the relationship between Robson and Paul Gascoigne developing as the tournament progresses (including a beautifully judged moment just before the semi-final shoot-out after the latter's yellow card sent him - and the English nation - into tears) and how Robson slowly transforms from pariah to saint.

The documentary even has its own villain - the then-sports minister Colin Moynahan - whose drastic attitudes towards stopping hooliganism in Italy is shown to be oppressive and far too stringent, with innocent England fans (and a German fan) finding themselves sent back to England for doing nothing, actions tempered by the Italian fans' less than restrained behaviour when Argentina defeat them in the other semi final.

Erskine allows the footage to tell its own story, refusing to moralise over the actions of the fans or those in power, a technique that gives the documentary an impartial attitude.

It also shows the time just before the football boom, where players were on the same, or similar, level to the fans paying their wages; where players earned their apprenticeships in boot rooms and factories rather than earning £15,000 a week to learn their trade.

It all harks back to an almost more innocent, football-focused time, and that appears to be Erskine's tactic, something that in light of the English exit of 2010 makes their forefathers appear all that more impressive.

Compare the street violence of the start with the hoards celebrating England's unexpected success come the documentary's conclusion and you can see just how important that success was - seemingly changing both the mood of a nation (if only until Euro '92) and football forever.

There is little here that will convince the haters of the 'beautiful game' to allow football into their lives, but then that's to be expected – instead as a snapshot of a summer that has only been equalled since by England's exploits at Euro '96, *One Night In Turin* is an exemplary sporting documentary and well worth watching.

GARETH JAMIESON

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Trials and tribulations of broadband in the Vale



Vale MP
ALUN CAIRNS
reports to GEM readers

SINCE my election just eight weeks ago, a week hasn't yet passed when I haven't received a complaint about the poor quality broadband capacity across the Vale.

It is a significant problem in the rural villages, but also relevant to parts of Barry and Llantwit. It is also ironic that when the BBC's Wales Today ran an item nearly two years ago on the lack of broadband and 'not spots' across Wales, this was the subject that gained the greatest response from viewers of any local matter.

Good broadband links are essential to support business and communities. This week, a businessman from the rural Vale complained that he may have to move house to sustain the business he runs from home, unless the bandwidth is improved.

He runs an international business that requires large files and videos to be sent to him at all hours of the day and night and the lack of bandwidth means that he cannot respond quickly enough. It is a high value business that brings new money to the community and has the potential to grow and prosper.

Schools today require much work to be done over the internet, again needing greater and greater bandwidth.

Bandwidth levels that seemed impressive just 12 months ago, are now out of date. There is a need for significant investment.

I have spoken to the chief executive of Openreach, the part of the BT group that is responsible for the network, and his priority is naturally to meet larger demands in towns and cities.

Barry has the good fortune of being one of the early 'Super Fast Broadband' towns and there are some excellent internet based small companies in operation.

Improving links to the rural Vale, however, is a different challenge. Colwinston or Llancarfan will not have the demand to warrant a private company from investing tens or hundreds of thousands of pounds to improve the service.

There is a need for government support on this. European money is being used in other rural parts of Wales but again, the Vale is ruled out of this.

The Minister in Westminster plans to spend the money that was previously used for the digital television switchover to improve broadband. It is not yet clear how that money will be allocated, but it is important that we shout the loudest.

Please contact me if you or your community are having specific problems and I will collate the data to make the strongest possible case to BT's Openreach.

You can get in touch via *aluncairns.com* or by calling 01446 733516.

Alun Cairns will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, July 16, at the following locations:

10am-11.30am in the Barry Island Community Centre, Friars Road, Barry Island; from 4pm-5.30pm at the Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

Pre-booking is advised to ensure a place. Call the constituency office on 01446 733516 to make an appointment.

Five-year-old girl dies in automatic gate incident in Bridgend

A five-year-old girl died last weekend when she was trapped by a motorised gate at a Bridgend apartment block.

It happened at Brook Court, which is in Brook Street, just off Coity Road.

It is the third time this year in the UK that a child has died after being caught in automatic gates.

The girl who died in Bridgend was named as Karolina Golabek.

Her Polish parents lived nearby, and she is thought to have been playing outside when the sliding gate started moving.

Her family have released the following statement:

"Our little angel, Karolina Maria Golabek, tragically left us on Saturday, July 3.

"She was a very happy, fun-loving, daughter. She loved animals, drawing pictures and enjoyed picking flowers for us, her loving parents and brother.

"Her parents and her brother would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support at this very difficult time.

"We would like to request that we be left in peace at this tragic time. She will be deeply missed."

Karolina was a pupil at Penybont Primary School, where her headteacher, Ben Blackall, said: " Karolina was a lively, happy little girl who always had a smile on her face.

"She was a lovely, friendly child who was very popular with children and staff alike.

"She had settled in really well at Penybont Primary and over the past year had made huge progress with her spoken English.

"She will be sadly missed by the whole school community. Our thoughts now are with her family and friends."

South Wales Police and the Health and Safety Executive are working closely together to conduct a thorough and full investigation.

A file is being prepared for HM Coroner.



ABOVE: Floral tributes left outside Brook Court.

POLICE ADVICE

THE neighbourhood policing team for the Gibbonsdown ward in Barry is holding a street surgery on Monday, July 12, in Pendoylan Close from 3pm to 5pm.

PENARTH'S FESTIVAL FINALE

PENARTH Holiday Festival will end with a swing when Numbers Racket, from the sell-out Hep Cats Holiday 2010, appear at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on July 17 at 7.30pm.

The Penarth Lindyhoppers, as well as the Forest of Dean swing dancers, will be in attendance, supported by DJ Dipsy Doodle.

At 3pm, the hall is open to 1940s enthusiasts with a display by the Home Guard and students from the Marina ballroom project.

Contact 07791 905325 or 02020 915061.

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BIG SAVINGS CAN BE MADE! CS Boxall have introduced their own boiler scrappage scheme, allowing big savings when renewing the boiler. *To find out more, go along to C.S. Boxall Ltd's open day on July 31, at 11am to 4pm at 39F, Vale Business Park, Llandow, between Cowbridge and Llantwit Major. It will be a great day for all who attend, with an informal, friendly welcome and no sales pressure – just an oportunity to find out more about the promotions on offer. There will be a bouncy castle for the children, refreshments, an on-site renewable energy information centre, and much more.. The C.S. Boxall team are going from strength-to-strength, having expanded the business – so much so that they are now situated in a much larger unit and have a service counter for both the general public and trade. To find out more, telephone 0800 8491254. Replacing your old boiler with a more efficient model will also help save on monthly bills – good news at at time when finances are tight for everyone. Customers can stay one step ahead of the VAT increase and make substantial replacement savings at C.S. Boxall Ltd. Beat the VAT increase by organising an upgrade before January 2011.*

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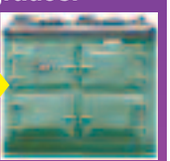
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CAERAU POST OFFICE IS NOW OPEN, IN STORE

THE new post office at Caerau opened this week and has been relocated to the Spar Shop in Caerau Road – just 60 yards from the site of the old post office which closed at the end of last year.

The proposal was put out to public consultation and Post Office managers say that all the representations received were in support of the plan.

A spokesman said: "The community has welcomed the proposals to restore Post Office services to the area.

"We are very aware of the importance a Post Office branch has in the lives of customers, particularly to elderly and disabled customers.

"Our goal is to do everything possible to make all Post Office branches as accessible for customers as possible."

The post office branch will be integrated into the store, ensuring that there is adequate space for both Post Office and retail customers.

The post office will be open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5.30pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 12.30pm.

Residents in Caerau fought hard to get the post office back after its sudden closure.

A number of proposals were put forward, including one to relocate it to Blaenllynfi School, which is being taken over by the Caerau Development Trust.

But traders in Caerau Road were anxious to keep the post office there because of the spin-off in business for them.

Attempts will now be made to get a post box located at the new post office but this is a matter for the Royal Mail.

Post Offices have been located within Spar shops at several towns in south Wales, including Porthcawl and Cowbridge.

Town carnival's £1,000 windfall

PORTHCAWL Town Council has agreed to pay more than £1,000 to provide traffic management officers at this year's carnival.

The Buckaneers, who run the carnival, contacted the council to explain that changes in police policy meant that organisers of events where traffic management was required are having to hire private firms – as the police cannot guarantee that their officers would be available.

Arthur Beale and Martin Owen, of the Buckaneers, attended the last council meeting and asked if the council could foot the bill, which comes to £975 plus VAT. The police are waiving their own fee this year but would charge in future, although no-one knows how much.

The request was discussed by councillors and leader David Deere said that it was essential that the carnival take place as usual.

The council was told that the event would have to be cancelled unless the council footed this bill.

The carnival takes place on July 24 and attracts lots of visitors to the town and is also popular with residents.

Newest car park to open

THE official opening of the borough's newest park takes place on Saturday, July 31, from 10am until 4pm.

A day of activities has been laid on to mark the opening of Parc Tir Iarll, which has been created on land between Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd in the Llynfi Valley by Llangynwyd Middle Community Council.

The council invites everyone to come along and enjoy a 'Picnic in the Park' – bring a blanket and food and enjoy the entertainment and music being laid on.

The council says it will be a proper family day with a bouncy castle, ice cream and other refreshments.

The council is keen to give local performers a chance to appear and air their talents. Anyone interested in taking part can contact clerk Anne Wilkes on 01656 738804.

The council will not be able to pay a fee, but feels that it could provide entertainers with a good showcase.

Everyone is urged to leave their cars at home and walk to the park if at all possible, as car parking is extremely limited.

The park has been named after the historic name for the area when it was first ruled by the Norman Robert Fitzhamon and was known as Tir Iarll – the Earl's Land. This name applied to a large area stretching from the banks of the Afan to the Garw originally, but in recent centuries has been used to denote the Llynfi Valley, particularly Llangynwyd.

Mayor's praise for the ambulance station and staff at Bryncethin



ABOVE: Coun Jeff Tildesley, with locality officer Jeff Morris and staff at Bryncethin Ambulance Station, from left, Paul Chadwick, high dependency service; paramedic James Bevan; Kath Attfield, administrative assistant; Janine Dowell, high dependency service; and paramedic Huw Jones.

THE retiring Mayor of Bridgend has paid tribute to the work of the Welsh Ambulance Service, after a visit to the town's ambulance station at Bryncethin.

Jeff Tildesley, whose period in office ended in June, said: "I was very impressed by the commitment of all the crews and amazed at the kit that ambulances carry these days.

"I was made very welcome, even though they're very busy and I was able to sit at the wheel of an emergency ambulance, which is hugely high tech these days.

"As part of my year in office, I have been out to thank all the emergency services for the way they do their work and look after us because they may not get too many thank-yous."

Locality ambulance officer for Abertawe/Bro Morgannwg, Jeff Morris, said: "It was good to have the Mayor here and he was keen to thank the staff for the work they do.

"He showed a great deal of interest in our operations and he was quite intrigued to hear what vehicles we use and how we deploy them at different times, and that there is more of a science to it than he thought.

"He hadn't seen the new emergency ambulances close up before and he enjoyed sitting in the cab and seeing all the sophisticated equipment they carry."

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Supporters out in force for Dogs Trust

THE weather turned on Sunday, with strong winds and rain in the air, but that did not deter the supporters of Bridgend's Dogs Trust, as they flocked to the trust's fun dog show in Margam Park.

There were all sorts of shapes and sizes on show – and that was just the owners!

When it came to the dogs, they were all looking their best and their owners were only too pleased to ask their canine companion to smile for Mandy Thomas' camera!

Some had travelled some distance, in particular the Romanian dog (below) sadly with only three legs which was rescued by a local charity and brought back to Wales!

The Bridgend Dogs Trust's centre is at Court Colman, and can be contacted on 01656 725219.













ABOVE: Fielding in the slips!













ABOVE: Taking a break and having a sit down!









Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

AM CLAIMS VICTORY AS CONSULTANTS' FEES REVEALED

A Freedom of Information campaign waged by an Assembly Member has led to the revelation that education consultants were paid up to £500 a day by the Vale Council.

Plaid Cymru AM Leanne Wood said it was a victory for transparency that "secrecy over the payments" made to consultants was at an end.

The Information Commissioner ruled in May that the authority should release full details on the consultants' costs, and, following an investigation and a 25-page judgement by Assistant Commissioner Anne Jones, it has now done so.

Leanne Wood lodged an appeal under the Freedom of Information Act after the Vale Council, while disclosing the £46,000 bill for employing two education consultants in 2008-09, refused to say how many days each of them was employed for and what each of them was paid, citing "commercial interests of other parties".

The AM said that since the decision, the Vale Council's chief executive John Maitland Evans has revealed that one of the education consultants received £29,000 for 58.5 days work in 2009-10. This was on top of £34,294 covering 68.5 days paid out in 2008-09.

Leanne Wood commented: "I welcome this belated decision by the Vale Council to release this information. But it should not have been necessary for me to pursue this matter through the Information Commissioner.

"I hope that the council get the message loud and clear that the public has a right to know how it is spending money whether it is on consultancy services, as in this case, or other projects and services.

"I trust the Vale Council will, in future, fully embrace the Freedom of Information Act in an open and transparent manner and not try to avoid providing information. My original request was motivated by a public desire to have a complete and full picture of how public money was being spent and certainly not by a desire to find out people's bank details as was erroneously suggested by the authority."

In her judgement Anne Jones had said: "The council did not provide the commissioner with any firm arguments to support its view that the disclosure would be likely to prejudice the consultants' or the council's own interests.

"There is a strong public interest in transparency in relation to the use of public money and ensuring that public authorities are achieving the best price for work that it outsourced to external companies."

A spokeswoman for the Vale Council said: "The council did not withhold the cost of the consultants. Ms Wood was supplied with details of the costs and a breakdown of the work undertaken.

"The fees charged by the individual consultants were not released as the individuals did not give their consent to the release of the information – indeed one consultant felt that the release would breach their rights under Data Protection."

The spokeswoman insisted that the council aims to be transparent in its work, pointing out: "This is demonstrated by its plans to become the first council in Wales to publish details on its website of all purchases made by its services costing more than £500.

"The Freedom of Information Act has been in operation for five and a half years and in that time out of more than 1,500 requests received only four decisions have been made against the council by the commissioner. Hardly the record of a council that tries 'to avoid giving information'."

The spokeswoman emphasised that the work done had proved good value for money.

"Consultants were engaged to support the Directorate of Learning and Development during a period when three of the four heads of service posts within the directorate were vacant.

"Employed on a part-time basis, the work of the consultants enabled key services to be sustained and arrangements for the Estyn inspection of education services to be progressed.

"The use of this part-time support proved to be excellent value for money, saving approximately £58,000 on salary costs.

The Estyn inspection report stated that in the Vale 'some of the highest school and pupil performance levels in Wales are achieved from one of the lowest resource bases'."



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Ms Shapiro said "I have a fabulous team of home-workers in the community, and we wouldn't be where we are today without their hard work and dedication".

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The outfit she selects will have caused many a sleepless night and a whole industry has sprung up supplying the ensemble, including the hat, which the mother of both bride and groom will wear.

It is essential, of course, that the two mothers liaise in order to co-ordinate their outfits – can you imagine how dreadful it would be if they turned up in outfits which were either clashing or worse, too similar! It is the bride's mother who will have the most input normally into what her daughter and the bridesmaids will wear.

Many an exhausted mum has been dragged around a whole procession of shops until the right wedding dress is spotted. This is followed by the choosing of the bridesmaids' dresses which will set the colour scheme for all the other accessories, including the flowers.

It is only then that the bride's mother can pick her own ensemble to complement the colours chosen for the wedding – and that includes the formal attire, which is normally hired by the groom and the leading males in the party, including the father of the bride. His role is also crucial – escorting his daughter up the aisle and the mother of the groom down it.

In my own case, I had a fairly relaxed time as mother of the bride as both my daughters were married away – one in London and one in New York.

The London wedding was a very informal civil ceremony in which my daughter wore a red Chinese silk dress and everybody else wore what they liked. There were no hats and fascinators had not been invented. As she was in red, I wore a bride-like cream suit with matching accessories.

The New York wedding took a lot of organising – especially as we all live in Wales and it was a flight of fancy on my daughter's part to get married in the Big Apple.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)



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BRIDES & GROOMS



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

The wedding was set for December 30 – a time of year when New York is always very cold. There was snow and ice in the city during our visit, which meant that everyone wore thick winter coats and boots throughout.

However, the wedding itself was in late afternoon in a lovely little church in Manhattan. We baffled the minister and the organist with our choice of hymns – Calon Lan and Cwm Rhondda.

My daughter, who wore a fabulous red satin dress with a huge skirt and fitted strapless top, decided that the guests would wear evening dress, which simplified things considerably.

All the men wore tuxedos, while the women wore cocktail and evening dresses underneath their outer coats.

Although she had decided that her red dress would be the only splash of colour as the theme would be black and white, I evaded that rule by buying a fabulous royal blue long silk skirt, camisole and matching jacket with pleats, a huge collar and a sash tied at the hip.

The reception was held in the Manhattan suite of the New Jersey Hyatt overlooking the Hudson river with the Manhattan skyline and the Empire State Building as the backdrop.

My daughter and I posed either side of her wedding cake – which was decorated in the stars and stripes. The red and the blue of our respective outfits blended in perfectly with the cake!

Getting married abroad entails one major difficulty – getting the wedding dress onto the aeroplane. My daughter refused to let it out of her sight and it came into the cabin with us as hand luggage - although the case it was in was far too large for that.

But sympathetic cabin crew stowed it for us in first class when we explained what it was. There was no way she was going to risk us being in New York while her dress was in Bangkok!

It was a memorable wedding and on New Year's Eve, it snowed while we were all in Central Park. The snow just swirled around the sky-scrapers which surround the park adding a magical touch.

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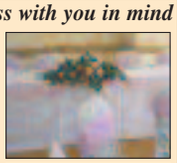
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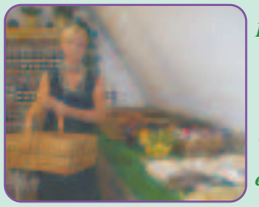
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UNCONSCIOUS MAN WAS 'KICKED LIKE RUGBY CONVERSION'

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A FORMER Welsh basketball international was one of two men who carried out a vicious assault on a pub-goer, because a young woman gave him a kiss.

At one stage, Conner O'Connell was believed by a witness to be dead, after one of the attackers stamped on his head and kicked him in a manner similar to "taking a rugby conversion" Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Darris Lyddon (20) and Oliver Downs (19) both of Bridgend, admitted causing Mr O'Connell actual bodily harm. Downs also pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

Judge William Gaskell said: "One can only look at your behaviour with contempt. You are both cowards."

Lyddon was sentenced to 10 months in a young offender institution, suspended for two years, and was ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work.

He was also subject to be electronically tagged and made subject to a four-month 9pm to 6am curfew.

In addition, he was ordered to pay Mr O'Connell £1,000 compensation, and costs of £1,000.

Downs received 12 months in a young offender institution, suspended for two years, and was ordered to carry out 300 hours unpaid work.

He was made subject to a 9pm to 6am curfew for six months and to be elecronically tagged.

In addition, he was ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to the victim, and costs of £765.

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said that last August, Mr O'Connell was drinking in the Farmers Arms pub, Cefn Cribwr, when in the beer garden, a girl called Jasmine gave him a kiss, something he did not want, because she was going out with Downs.

Downs appeared and punched him. Lyddon also punched him.

He was assaulted a number of times after that and lost consciousness.

A witness, Christopher Smith, saw Downs stamp on his head three times while he was unconscious and deliver the "conversion kick". That witness "thought he was dead" said Ms Phillips.

He suffered abrasions, bruising, swellings and cuts. Lyddon was arrested at the scene, said he was a binge drinker and denied the assault. Downs admitted it.

While on bail, Downs was spotted by the police in a car in Cefn Cribwr, cutting up pieces of cannabis, and in his possession was a weighing scale and small bags of cannabis. On his mobile phone were texts concerning drug dealing.

Lyddon's counsel, Byron Broadstock said his client was a former Welsh basketball international and had had a trial for the Ospreys rugby team.

The offence, he said, was out of character.

He said he had suffered a mental breakdown four times and had been sectioned four times, once in Greece and once in Egypt.

Giles Hayes, for Downs, said: "He is embarrassed and ashamed and has been ostracised by his local community."

Both men were said to have no previous convictions.

VILLAGE FESTIVAL

LLANFEST 2010 – Llangan and St Mary Hill Village Festival is at Fferm Goch green, Llangan at 1pm on Saturday, July 31. Free entry.

Music from Lawrence Phillips, Under the Driftwood Tree, Orca, Urban Fire, Little Red Ambulance.Children's rides, bouncy castle, clown, face painting, craft stalls, outdoor skittles

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 625.

- **£2000:** 788521.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 711758; 323705; 835462; 680886; 673838; 897535; 299698; 185617; 411936; 643956; 233101; 403110; 939304; 437341; 397371; 384875; 423055; 229291; 961305; 777314.
- **£5:** 423457; 826357; 874508; 572610; 699994; 210812; 666589; 784084; 455783; 637681; 495860; 610024; 740168; 477863; 698667; 773467; 311726; 823402; 823134; 453893; 525750; 601781; 881345; 544956; 870968; 373477; 406713; 857134; 568893; 200946; 415710; 931277; 574060; 399479; 849899; 379538; 581498; 757492; 494576; 379796; 242968; 309937; 304706; 263062; 818068; 670792; 668808; 780592; 857107; 482202; 601389; 630275; 499363; 814534; 995813; 107137; 526823; 668222; 605684; 447206.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

'Will-o-the-wisp' winger fast making his mark!

(AND SO IS PORTHCAWL'S TOM!)

IT was a proud moment for his Penmark family when 23-year-old Will Harries came off the bench to win his first cap for Wales in the second Test against New Zealand.

The elusive Dragons' winger leapfrogged Welsh rivals after just two seasons with the Gwent region, when rave reviews for a purple patch of eight tries in nine matches, brought him to the attention of national team coach Warren Gatland.

Will's abilities shone through early, as his dad Paul vividly recalls: "I saw him play for Cathedral School in a tournament at Clifton College and he ran rings around everyone, scoring 19 tries!"

Later, at Millfield the talented youngster took the Public Schools Sevens tournament by storm with a total of 84 touchdowns.

It was while he was at Millfield that Northampton RFC stole a march on Welsh clubs and snapped him up for their squad, with the added inducement of a sports degree course at Loughborough.

From there, the young winger's rugby career might have taken a different direction as part of the England set-up – but fortunately, the pull of his Vale roots saw him return over the border to Wales two years ago, since when his rise has been meteoric.

Now, along with another young gun, Porthcawl's Tom Prydie, this former Cowbridge mini-rugby player who represented Wales at both under-18 and under-19 level, is very much a part of Gatland's future World Cup planning.

The GEM will be joining the two local families in following Will and Tom's progress with keen interest.

DON JOHN





ABOVE: Local boys Will Harries (on left) and Tom Prydie will be hoping to stake their claims for regular starting places in the Wales XV next season.
PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY

Council looks again at cost of meals-on-wheels service

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The council runs seven vans, which would mean the loss of seven part-time posts.

- Investigating the option of having the meals produced by outside suppliers. The kitchens in use at Pyle Welfare Hall have been deemed to be unsuitable, and there is no money to carry out improvements.

At the moment, the kitchen employs a cook, assistant cook and three kitchen assistants to produce 250 meals a day.

The review will look at whether or not the schools catering service could carry out this work, or an outside provider which would cook to the council's specifications.

The report states: "The provision of a hot daily meal for those who need it remains an important part of the support package available to enable people to remain living at home for as long as possible

"We have recognised the need to improve the quality of the meals in terms of nutritional value and variety, and the efficiency of the service in order to deliver best value."

The service is also looking at where the delivery vans are to be kept to save time as, at the moment, they are kept in Bryncethin but the service is based in Pyle.

This entails a lot of wasted time as the vans are driven to Pyle at the start and end of every shift.

Another option is to look at creating two bases for the service – one in the north of the borough and another in the south.

The option of introducing invoicing has been explored, as this method is used for paying for other home care services. It could be introduced in the autumn, which is when the single manning of the vans would begin.

The objective is to increase deliveries to seven days a week throughout the borough – at the moment, only Porthcawl, Cornelly, Kenfig Hill, Pyle, Cefn Cribwr, Sarn and Bridgend get a seven day service. They are delivered only five days a week in Maesteg, Ogmore and Garw.

A meeting has already been held with staff, and further meetings are planned.

Each meal costs the council £6.80p to prepare and deliver, but the charge is £3.40p per day, which means that each meal is subsidised by £3.40p. Users have a two choice menu on a seven-week rota.

Cabinet has not yet made any decisions on the options available.

Former council leader Cheryl Green, who now heads the Liberal Democrat group, said that when this came up in the past, it was deferred for more information to be gathered.

"We felt we did not enough information to take a decision. That was in March 2008. I cannot understand how it has taken a further two years to come back with these proposals.

"My only concern is to ensure that the service users get a hot meal per day by whatever method is available. This is often the only hot meal that some people get, so it has to be of good quality.

"I will be interested to see what the cabinet decides to do about this," she concluded.

A spokesman for BCBC said that the council had been delivering a hot meal to people in their own homes for many years and the service was a cornerstone of social care in the borough.

He said that while the council was committed to providing a daily hot cooked meal to those unable to do it for themselves, they were looking to improve the quality of the meals, whilst ensuring best value for both the customer and the council tax payer.

He added that the council was looking to its award-winning catering service to try and improve the way meals are prepared and cooked, and it was hoped to extend the service to seven days a week across the borough.

There was no comment about the possibility of seven jobs being axed.

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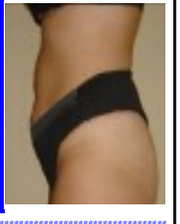
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PANTHERS CELEBRATE THEIR GOOD YEAR ON RUGBY FIELD

PORTHCAWL Panthers RFC under-13s recently held their end of season presentation at the club house in South Road.

The squad were presented with their new shirts by the 2009/10 shirt sponsor Mr Julian Vance-Daniels of Vessco Engineering Ltd

In return, the squad presented Mr Vance-Daniels with a framed shirt which had been signed by Wales International players Ryan Bevington and Tom Prydie.

Karl Gardner Building Contractors was the 2009/10 sponsor for the squads shorts and socks. Mr Karl Gardner was presented with a shirt which had been signed by the 2009/10 squad.

Porthcawl Panthers squad 2009/10: *Oliver Hopkins (player of the year), Dylan Winn-Davies, Harry Jenkins, Ben Kent, James Long, Joe Downes, Jack Power, Cory Gardner, Callum Chilcott, Ethan Newbery, Robert Ellis, Christian Long (captain), Joseph JJ Jones, Jake Furness, Gareth Evans-Rees (vice-captain), Elliot Williams, Rhys Mortimer (players' player of the year and most improved player), Connor Morgan, Steffan Jones, Callum Wootton (clubman of the year), Alex Robertson, Zachary Jones, Jack Hubbard-Miles, Nathan Woodall.*

Any player interested in playing under-14s rugby, or any mini or junior rugby, should visit the web site http://www.freewebs.com/porthcawlrfcminiandjuniors/ or telephone 0786 7744880



Player of the year Oliver Hopkins.



Callum Wooton.



Rhys Mortimer.



The sponsors received a framed shirt from the club.

From fashion to beach cleans...

A BUSY TIME FOR PORTHCAWL LIONS!

IT has been a busy month for the Porthcawl Lions Club, so members could be forgiven if they are feeling a litle tired!

However, Joan Cosson, the Lions Activity chair, told The GEM that no one was flagging, adding: "It is true that we have been involved in many events this past month.".

With two meetings of the Lions Club at the Seabank Hotel on the first and second Tuesdays of June, there then followed: car parking duties at the Rest Hotel car boot sale; the Porthcawl Lions own golf day, which raised £3,000 for charity; stewarding the Porthcawl Cancer Research charity walk; and organising and modelling a charity clothes fashion show.

In the same month, there was the KPC charity golf day; more stewarding at the Sandy Bay Lifeguard beach clean; and to finish off, a very good social evening at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, with the Llantrisant and Cowbridge Lions Club.

The Porthcawl Lions well-known book sale at the Seabank Hotel resumes on Saturday and Sunday, July 24-25. Entrance is free and the sale opens at 10am on both days.

The month of July is again a busy time for the Lions, with several social events as well as fund raising.

Membership secretary Don Tickner said: "If you want an interesting, social, charitable fundraising organisation to join, then consider Porthcawl Lions Club.

"We now have eight ladies and 23 men in the club", said Don, who can be contacted on 01656 788583.





Win Morgan was the compere.

You can read The GEM online - just log onto www.bridgend-today or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

THEY'RE BACK!

Peacock's returning with a Maesteg store!

FIFTEEN years after the chain closed down its stalls in the market, Peacock's is coming back to the Llynfi Valley.

by JAYNE ISAAC

The company is moving into the former Woolworth's store in Commercial Street, which has stood empty for months after the Richley Stewart group, which took it over, ceased trading.

Peacock's has long links to Maesteg and the Welsh company, which is based in Cardiff, has always said that it intended to return if suitable premises became available.

The firm has confirmed to The GEM this week that it will be opening its store on September 2. It will start recruiting staff from August 6. No details are available at the moment about the number of jobs being created but further information will be released later.

The news has been welcomed by Richard Collins, president of Maesteg Chamber of Trade: "This is absolutely fantastic and exactly what Maesteg needs at the moment," he said.

"The town needs a draw and Peacocks will do just that – bringing people back into Commercial Street as Woolworths used to do.

"It was an absolute tragedy that Woolworth's went under – it should have been saved as a national institution by the government, which poured billions into the banks.

"Peacocks will act as a catalyst and will hopefully have a spin-off effect on other businesses in the town centre.

"We are delighted to welcome them back to our town, which is where they belong."

Town centre library move is put on hold

LONG-term plans to move the Bridgend town library to the Recreation Centre may have to go on hold in the short term.

by JAYNE ISAAC

That information was contained in a report to the health and well being scrutiny committee at its meeting last week.

An update on the Bridgend Recreation Centre redevelopment was given to the committee.

This revealed that while work was under way on the options reported to cabinet in February, which included the library move, more affordable options are now being pursued.

These are based mainly on the redevelopment of the sports hall at the centre.

These revised options would mean taking a phased approach to the redevelopment.

The report goes on: "These options mean accepting initially that it would not be possible to achieve the long-term vision and integrate library facilities into the centre."

But the report says that plans to move the county library facilities at Coed Parc will carry on. The building is known to be in a bad state.

The report states that they will be moved to the old Ty'r Ardd day centre, located next to the Sunnyside building, and also to Ravens Court, next to Bridgend RFC, which are new offices being leased by the council.

The report being prepared will also look at other options for the centre, which include a larger fitness gymnasium, and facilities for activities like soft play, ten pin bowling, indoor five a side and a fitness studio.

- Work on Maesteg swimming pool is due to be completed in time for it to re-open in September. Work is under way to prepare an "appropriate programme and staffing structure" to ensure that the pool is as financially viable as possible when it re-opens.

It was forced to close because equipment was antiquated and failing.

- A feasibility study is under way on the Berwyn Centre in Nantymoel, and this could impact on the future role of the Ogmore Valley Life Centre.
- Work needed to upgrade the Garw Valley Leisure Centre in Pontycymer has been costed at £200,000. Work includes increasing the size of the gym, developing a bike-hire centre and relocating some of the library there.

All of these development are subject to final approval and are part of a series of options currently being explored.

Tathan is now in national archives

TATHAN, the magazine of MoD St Athan has now taken its place in history by moving to the National Archives of Wales.

Last year Tathan's profile was raised nationally when the office received a telephone call from the National Archive of Wales saying that the magazine had come to their attention, and could they start to receive copies.

Editor Jane Bissett said: "To start with, we thought it was a practical joke, until we received an email to confirm all the details, after which we put the National Archive of Wales on the distribution list".

She added: "There has been a Station magazine at RAF St Athan since the 1940s and in the early days, possibly several.

"No 4 School of Technical Training originally took the lead and as the magazine evolved it expanded to cover the station and eventually became Tathan.

"It was fitting then that the magazine returned to its original home at No 4 SofTT when we became an MoD site.

"However, the magazine still tries to encompass the site as a whole and includes our local Air Cadets and in recent months, HMS Cambria has played a more active role in sharing their news with us".

Holiday disco at Berwyn Centre

THE council-run Berwyn Centre in Nantymoel is giving children the chance to celebrate the start of the summer school holidays with an under-11s disco on Thursday, July 22, from 5pm – 7pm.

Organised by BCBC's arts and community development, children can enjoy a fun couple of hours packed full of music, dance and games.

Admission is £1.50 per child. For further details, telephone (01656) 840439 or email: Berwyn.centre@bridgend.gov.uk.

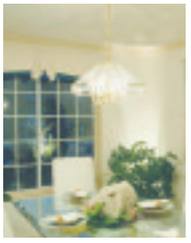
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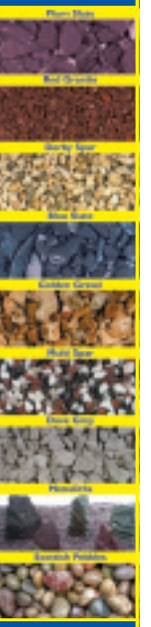
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Inspirational Homes

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

SUMMER SHOWERS – a double edged sword for your garden

by HANNAH STEPHENSON

SUMMER showers always perk up plants, but rainfall at this time of year is a double-edged sword.

Yes, showers are good for the garden, plants look refreshed and a heavy downpour saves masses of time on watering, but they also bring out slugs, snails and, worst of all, weeds.

Perennial weeds are the true bugbear of the gardener. If you have an issue with bindweed, digging out what you can on a regular basis will reduce the problem but it won't kill it.

Ground elder is another invasive nuisance – its underground rhizomes taking hold and often smothering those of neighbouring plants.

It can also spread by seed. Hoeing and digging is difficult because of its habit of creeping among the plants you want to keep.

The other bane of the gardener's life is couch grass, its strong spikes always appearing where you don't want them, among plants in beds and borders.

They are difficult to eradicate but not impossible as the rhizomes are quite shallow and you can loosen the soil and gently follow the trail of the rhizome without breaking it, pulling out long intact lengths of it.

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Rugby's Ieuan tackles a tough golf challenge!

WELSH rugby legend Ieuan Evans took part in the Tenovus 100-hole challenge last week, to raise money for the Tenovus Mobile Cancer Support Unit.

The challenge took place at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club on Tuesday and the former Wales and British Lions star endured a 12-hour stint on the golf course, starting at 4am!

The challenge asks golfers to play 100 holes of golf in a 24-hour period and club golfers have been taking the challenge since June 1.

In Ieuan's case, he made life difficult for himself, as golfers all know how unforgiving the rough is at the Royal.

The ideal way to play 100 holes (five-and-a-half rounds) is on a parkland course with not too much rough. After all, no one wants to have to walk back and play another ball after losing the first in heavy rough!

On top of that, Ieuan must have been jet-lagged, after flying back from New Zealand, where he was commentating on the Wales v All Blacks games.

Ieuan said: "I was delighted to take part in the 100 hole challenge and help raise money for Tenovus.

"I love playing golf and this definitely proved to be both a physical and mental challenge for me – especially as I flew back from New Zealand the day before!

"I am thrilled that I have helped raise money and raise awareness of the charity, which will directly help patients and families with cancer."

Lianne Toye, head of corporate sponsorship and events for Tenovus said: "This is the first time that the 100-hole has been attempted and is a very exciting challenge!

"The top 90 fundraisers will also receive two one day passes for The 2010 Ryder Cup, a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"Tenovus has raised more than £300,000 through the Ryder Cup Wales partnership, which is the amount needed to run Tenovus' Mobile Cancer Support Unit for a whole year!"

To sponsor Ieuan and Tenovus, visit: http://uk.virginmoney-giving.com/IeuanEvans

For more information on how to get involved in the 100-hole challenge, or any Tenovus golf activities, email golf@tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8864.



ABOVE: Fellow golfers out in support in the (very) early morning!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT



RIGHT: A well-balanced follow through from Ieuan Evans.

Youngsters to get skates on

THE Vale Youth Service has launched its first ever 'mobile skate park' in a bid to encourage young people to take part in skating workshops in their local area.

The first of its kind to be launched, the 'Skate Anywhere' initiative uses entirely portable skating equipment, which can be transported to different locations across the Vale, giving young people access to high quality skating facilities.

Previously trialed in schools across the Vale, the scheme received positive feedback from pupils who took part in the taster sessions hosted by the youth service.

To help launch the skate park, the 'Skate Anywhere' initiative received more than £15,000 of funding from the Vale Council's Rural Regeneration initiative, Creative Rural Communities.

Jane Williams, senior rural regeneration officer at Creative Rural Communities said: "We felt that the 'Skate Anywhere' project had the potential to not only encourage young people to use their leisure time productively but also to encourage youngsters to embark upon physical activity."

School exhibition examines Nell's Point question

BARRY Island Primary School is hosting an exhibition entitled 'Why Nell's Point?' over the weekend July 11-12 (11am - 1.30pm).

The exhibition aims to share the children's ideas about the reasons behind the name 'Nell's Point' because the school and community are unable to agree upon the 'real' reasons for the name of this well known and much loved landmark.

Each year group will have work on display ranging from traditional stories, poems and artwork to digital presentations including movies and podcasts.

All are welcome to visit, take a look around and even discuss the works with some of the children and staff. Please come along!

TG



FOURTH TIME MAY BE THE LAST FOR SHREK FRANCHISE

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

WHILE Toy Story joins the trilogy club later this month, as part three reaches cinemas, one particular animation icon has gone one better, with the fourth Shrek outing, *Forever After*, landing on the big screen.

Given that the previous three films have made more than $2billion at the box office, a fourth offering was a formality, though given the lacklustre *Shrek The Third* there is much to prove.

This instalment sees Shrek (Mike Myers) make a pact with Rumpelstiltskin to feel more like an ogre – but when he is double crossed, he finds himself in an alternative Far Far Away, where he is hunted like the ogre he used to be. He has never met Fiona (Cameron Diaz) and Rumpelstiltskin is king!

Shrek sets out to straighten things out, but in this world the people he can rely on – Donkey (Eddie Murphy) and Puss In Boots (Antonio Banderas) - aren't quite the same people they were before...

When Shrek was released in 2001, it was a massive breath of fresh air. While the majority of animations (Pixar aside) were content to wheel out adaptations of classic stories or talking animals, the concept of Shrek was clever, cool and highly original.

Shrek 2 continued that good work, creating a sequel that was better than its original, ramping up the scope, story and ambition but losing nothing in the process.

It was this freshness that was sadly lacking in the third installment, the film losing its way and replacing riffs on fairy-tale characters with pop culture gags and references that failed to hit the spot, so it is pleasing that *Shrek Forever After* has eschewed this approach to return the franchise to its fairytale origins.

While not as successful as the first two films, this is still something approaching a return to form and will leave only the stoniest of hearts unamused or untouched by what is a somewhat more adult take.

Not that those words should put off parents or youngsters - Shrek doesn't develop a gambling habit or addiction to painkillers: but tonally, the film feels a touch more adult, perhaps mindful that in the nine years since the original was released, the audience has grown up – and so have their expectations.

The set-up brings both adults and children into the mix – the former will no doubt feel a touch of empathy for the ogre whose roar has been diminished by becoming a loveable member of the community and family man, and who feels like he has lost his way in the world; while the former will no doubt enjoy seeing another fairytale character, Rumpelstiltskin, enter the character's universe and enjoy the sight of Shrek and Fiona's three babies belching in a way that would make their father proud.

But from this set-up, screenwriters Josh Klausner and Darren Lemke waste the premise to a degree, taking what could have been something quite intriguing and not quite being able to carry it through.

Shrek undergoing a midlife crisis, changing what he wants to change before realising that he was happier where he was all along is hardly the most original of narrative arcs, but it doesn't need to be, if handled well; and while the pair find some beautiful moments in the course of the story (Shrek trying to prove his love to Fiona, now leader of the ogre resistance), it feels a touch too fast-paced and perfunctory to truly resonate.

The humour is as ever omnipresent, skewering fairytale convention while making the odd nod to pop culture throughout.

However, just as the story starts to build up some real momentum, the conclusion comes along and that's that. Although the length of films is becoming a touch excessive at times, given the love of the characters and the franchise, a little bit more time spent in this alternative world would have given a fresh sheen to the characters and situations they find themselves in.

As it is, despite their new world, the characters function as more of the same, with only Shrek really undergoing anything resembling a change. His unhappiness at his new life is portrayed superbly by both the animation and the vocal performance of Mike Myers shows a quiet humour, mixed with pathos, that stands out well.

Cameron Diaz does another good job as Fiona, though much like Eddie Murphy's Donkey and Antonio Banderas' Puss In Boots, the characters are very much hitting the same marks they've been hitting since they first turned up in the franchise, the characters, and performances, sidelined to a degree to make room for the main story arc involving Shrek.

Of the new members of the vocal cast, *Mad Men*'s Jon Hamm does well in a small role as an ogre accomplice of Fiona's, while the likes of *Flight of the Conchords*' Kristen Schaal, Kathy Griffin, Craig Robinson, John Cleese and Julie Andrews all add a little bit of quality to proceedings.

But it is Walt Dohrn, as Rumpelstiltskin, who deserves the plaudits, particularly as he is the film's story editor and not a natural actor.

However, throwing away any sense of restraint, he makes the character of Rumpelstiltskin pleasantly evil, amping up the arch villainy but with the knowing wink so necessary in films of this ilk, delivering a highly pleasing turn.

Considering he previously helmed live action comedy *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*, director Mike Mitchell moves to animation with considerable skill, using the 3D effect to give the film depth of vision and clarity rather than use it in a gimmicky fashion

While films like *Clash of the Titans* do the nature of 3D a disservice, you can be assured you won't regret paying the extra for *Shrek Forever After*.

Despite the technological upgrade, however, there is little in the way of visual update, the world and characters so well ingrained that there is little visual trickery Mitchell can employ - but with the levels of realism in the facial movements of the characters increasing, the film is still wonderful to look at.

While a marked improvement on the last entry to the franchise, *Shrek Forever After* doesn't quite hit the heights the first two achieved, but certainly makes a good attempt at it. If this is the last Shrek film to be made (though don't despair as Puss In Boots has his own movie due out next year) then at least the franchise has bowed out on a higher note than part three would have allowed.

VERDICT - Fourth time is just about the charm for the Shrek franchise as, if rumours are to be believed, *Shrek Forever After* brings the curtain down on the loveable ogre. While the vocal performances, particularly from Mike Myers and Walt Dohrn, hit the spot, the slightly rushed nature of the story, and failure to really dig into the meat of it, means that while an agreeable viewing experience, it just falls short of reaching the heights of Shrek and Shrek 2. *Enjoyable*.

Open day gives a chance to see how Samaritans work

THIS year, Volunteer Awareness Day falls on July 24 – a date that holds some significance for Bridgend Samaritans.

The charity, which prides itself on operating a helpline that is available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, has always marked 24/7 as a special day.

This year, on July 24, which falls on a Saturday, the Bridgend branch is holding an open day (from 11am to 3.30pm) for prospective volunteers at its centre, 2 Green Street, just off Coity Road.

Anyone who thinks they might like to become a listening volunteer, or a support volunteer, is welcome to come along and meet local Samaritans to find out more about how the organisation works and what is involved in becoming a volunteer.

The branch's director, Christine, said: "Volunteers will be happy to talk about what they do, and what is involved in becoming a Samaritan"

On the same day, Samaritans will be manning a stall in Bridgend town centre, along with many other voluntary groups taking part in Volunteer Awareness Day.

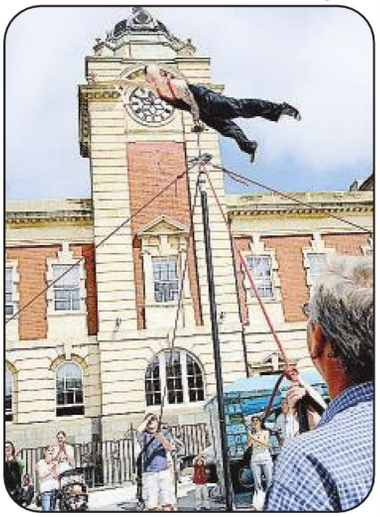
Artists' festival

PENARTH Annual Amateur Artists' outdoor festival starts today (July 8) and will run for 11 days until July 18 (12noon - 8pm daily).

The venue is Penarth Cliff Walk, at the rear of Cliff Parade.

Out and About with The GEM

Vale 'summer events' season is under way



Reuben of Cirque du Soleil pictured in action at Barry's King Square, just one of the attractions in the town this summer.

A PARK full of fire, street entertainment, beach volleyball, an architectural sandcastle competition and a skate festival, are just a few of the exciting events lined up for the Vale Council's first Barry Summer Season.

The two-month season, which runs from early July to September 5, takes in Barry Town Centre, Barry Island and the Waterfront and is the most comprehensive series of free events that has ever been staged in Barry.

Michael Chubb, events officer, said: "We are fortunate in Barry to have a wide range of outdoor spaces, including a compact town centre and a Blue Flag beach, which allow us to develop an events season like no other in Wales."

'Open gardens trail'

THE 14th annual Open gardens trail takes place in Penarth on Saturday, July 24 (at 10am–6pm) and Sunday, July 25 (at 2pm – 5pm).

Admission to all gardens is £4 with complimentary tea/coffee.

This year, there are 11 gardens to view and the private Sully Terrace allotments. All proceeds go to The Children's Society.

Further information from Ann Lush, 029200 703547; or email ***ann@lush.eu.com.***

VALE HOTEL RESORT TO HOST TOURISM AWARDS CEREMONY

AFTER two years' absence, the country's leading Tourism Awards, The National Tourism Awards for Wales, will again be held in October and the Vale Hotel Resort at Hensol has been chosen to host the prestigious event.

The awards recognise the value of the tourism industry to Wales and it is a huge accolade to be honoured with one of the 11 category awards.

These are dedicated to the best hotels, B&Bs and tourist attractions in Wales offering the warmest of welcomes, and to those who continuously illustrate all that can be achieved through hard work, ingenuity and commitment.

Visit Wales, in partnership with the Wales Tourism Alliance and in commercial partnership with corporate communications company Quadrant, organises the glittering event.

Judges aim to identify places offering great quality, a warm welcome and a truly professional approach to looking after visitors 12 months a year.

Winners will be places that respect and celebrate Wales' past and heritage, yet provide forward-thinking, fresh and innovative initiatives and services.

By being chosen to host the awards, the family-owned and run Vale Resort is acknowledged as a shining example of all this.

Paul Beddoe, sales and marketing director, said: "To be nominated for an award demonstrates excellence. To win, you join a very select and small club indeed.

"As a previous winner of the Golf Marketing Award, we are delighted to host this year's prestigious event."

The awards are a calendar highlight within Wales' tourism and hospitality industries and will be held on October 21.

Hosted by TV presenter Sarra Elgan, it promises to be a night to remember. The Wales Tourism Alliance Conference will be held at the same impressive 4* venue the following day.

The world-class Vale Resort is owned by the Leeke family and celebrated its landmark 10th year in business last year.

Last month, the resort further established its reputation as a UK leader within the hospitality industry after receiving maximum points in an AA review, to add to its AA rosette for its Vale Grill restaurant.

In September, the Vale was awarded a Gold Award from Visit Wales in recognition of its outstanding quality, exceptional comfort and hospitality.

Celebrity guests include the Manchester United team, the British Lions, Hollywood actor Matthew Rhys, Catherine Zeta Jones, Charlotte Church, Jamie Oliver and Westlife.

The Resort is home to the £4 million WRU National Centre of Excellence training facilities for the Welsh rugby team and also for Cardiff Blues, Cardiff City FC and the FAW.

Tickets are £75 with tables of 10 available for £700. Special rate accommodation at The Vale Resort is available to those attending the National Tourism Awards for Wales.

For more information on the Resort, please see the newly re-vamped website at: ***www.vale-hotel.com***

For details of The National Tourism Awards for Wales, see ***www.ntawales.com***

Show schedule is published

THE Dinas Powys Village Show, which will take place on Saturday, September 4, has now made its schedule of classes available from the following:

Dinas Powys Community Council Office, Britway Road; Dinas Powys Library, Fairoaks; Murch Post Office; the two chemists shops; Brynawel Garden Centre; Valley View FRuit and Veg Stores; the Village Post Office; Barry Library; Wenvoe library and Sully Library.

A spokeswoman said: "There are 103 classes for all ages, from three years upwards, something for everyone, including cookery, photography, fruit and vegetables, craft work, needle crafts, drawing and painting, flowers, shrubs and houseplants and floral art.

"Also, there are lots of classes for young people. If you are unable to collect a schedule please email valhartrey@talktalk.net."

Further details of the afternoon's free entertainment will be published in the weeks before the show.

For further information, telephone 02920 513274 or 02920 514173.

Young poet is 'commended'

TALENTED young poet Lewis Knight, from Maesteg school, has been highly commended for his entry in a national poetry competition.

The campaign group, Animal Aid, launched the competition, whose theme was 'factory farming', to encourage young people to discover what happens on intensive farms and to express their views on this contentious subject.

Animal Aid received hundreds of entries from individuals and schools and was delighted by the extraordinarily high standard.

Lewis' poem was shortlisted in its age category (11-13) for its imagination, technique and understanding of the issue.

Kelly Slade of Animal Aid said: "The poetry we received was exciting, imaginative and bold, and revealed a thoughtful and compassionate younger generation.

"Congratulations to Lewis – he richly deserves his award."

Win Ryder Cup tickets

European Ryder Cup captain, Colin Montgomerie, is encouraging people to join their local library – to be in with a chance of winning two tickets to the 2010 Ryder Cup on Saturday, October 2, at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport.

All who join a Welsh library during July and August will be entered into a draw. The winner will be announced in September

PACT MEETINGS

ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry on July 20 at 7pm.

ST ATHAN PACT, Old Schol Building on July 12, 7.30pm.

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, July 15, 8.15pm.

Zenergy Psychic Fayre

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CARDIFF & VALE SCHOOLS' UNDER-15 CHAMPIONSHIPS

TOM WILLIAMS IS A FUTURE WELSH STAR









Words by PETER MORRIS
Photos by IAN DIXON

TWO year-9 pupils from Penarth's Stanwell Comprehensive produced the stand-out performances at this year's Cardiff & the Vale Schools' under-15 track and field championships, held at the Cardiff International Sports Stadium.

Sprinter/jumper Tom Williams, who set a new Cardiff & the Vale Schools long jump best in the 2008 championships, was unable to compete in the qualifying competitions, but was given a non scoring, wild card entry to the championships.

That did not deter him from taking first place in all three of the individual competitions in which he took part – 100, 200 and long jump – with the sort of performances which mark him as a potential Welsh champion later in the summer.

Because he was non-scoring, his school lost out on 51 points in the team competition, and the second placed athlete in all three competitions gain the status of 'champion'.

On the field, Matteo Holmes was the other Stanwell pupil to make his mark, in the throws.

He was a comfortable winner in the hammer, and seemed pleased to record a distance just over 40 metres to take the javelin title.

In the discus, he finished only second on the card but the longest throw was set by Ryan Marlowe (YG Glantaf), who was another pupil who missed the qualifying competitions and competed as a non-scoring wild card entry.

The outcome is that Matteo is champion in three events, and his school did benefit to the tune of 51 points!

The Vale schools claimed a further four titles in the boys' competitions, through Matthew Collins (Barry Comprehensive, 800m), Ieuan Orton (Bro Morgannwg, High Jump), and the Cowbridge duo of Joe Gaughan (Shot) and George Griffiths (Long Jump).

In the girls' competitions, two pupils successfully defended the title that they won last year – Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit, 800m) and Nancie Edwards (Cowbridge, 1500m walk) – while Catrin Cosier (Bryn Hafren, 100m), Megan Osborne (Llantwit, 1500m), Annabel Curle (Cowbridge, High Jump), Isabelle Armour (Cowbridge, Discus) and Danielle Dakin-Weston (Llantwit, Javelin) also won their events.

There was great joy for the Cowbridge PE department in the team competition as their girls claimed a win in a very close contest.

Individual winners should make a note in their diary for Tuesday, September 7. That is the date of the Cardiff & the Vale Schools Track & Field Presentation Evening at Cardiff High School, starting at 7 pm.

Many of the best performers from this fixture represented Cardiff & the Vale against the other seven districts at the Aviva Welsh Schools' National track & field championships, which was held at Penlan, Brecon on Saturday, July 3. There was a restriction on the number of events in which a pupil can compete – two individual events plus a relay.

RESULTS OF VALE PUPILS

Junior (u15) Boys – Years 8 & 9

100: Ht 1 1 Thomas Williams Stanwell - non scor 12.6; 4 Scott Laken Cowbridge 13.1; 6 Tom Adams Barry 13.5; Ht 2 1 George Griffiths Cowbridge 12.7; 2 Kieron Heppenstall St Cyres 12.7; 5 Pat Frilles St Richard Gwyn 13.3; Final 1 Tom Williams Stanwell - non scor 12.1; 3 George Griffiths Cowbridge 12.5; 5 Kieron Heppenstall St Cyres 12.6

200: Ht 1 3 Jacob Briscombe Bro Morgannwg 26.7; Ht 2 ; 5 Sam Laity Westbourne 29.4; Ht 3 1 Thomas Williams Stanwell - non scor 24.4; 4 Harri Thomas Cowbridge 26.9; 5 Pat Frilles St Richard Gwyn 27.0; Final (ws -2.9): 1 Tom Williams Stanwell - non scor 24.2

400: Ht 1 2 George Hooper St Cyres 57.3; 5 George Connolly Bro Morgannwg 61.1; Ht 3: 2 Che Pomphrey St Cyres 59.7; Final: 2 George Hooper St Cyres 58.1; 6 Che Pomphrey St Cyres 60.7

800: 1 Matthew Collins Barry 2:18.2; 4 Jake Bosza Westbourne 2:20.4; 13 Tomas Harvard St Cyres 2:30.1; 14 Josh Martin Llantwit Major 2:31.1; 16 Joshua Thomas Cowbridge 2:36.2; 17 Tomos Russell Bro Morgannwg 2:37.9

1,500: 3 Elliot Richards Stanwell 4.54.3; 4 Dafydd George Bro Morgannwg 4.55.9; 7 Curtis Hayes Barry 5.02.0; 8 Cameron Jones Cowbridge 5.03.1; 9 Sam Peterken St Cyres 5.08.9; 13 Tom Rawlings Llantwit Major 5.24.6

80H: Ht 1 2 Harri Thomas Cowbridge 13.7; 5 Rhys Edwards Barry 14.7; Ht 2 4 Pat Frilles St Richard Gwyn 13.8; 7 Chris Powell Cowbridge 15.0; Ht 3 1 Harri Williams Bro Morgannwg 13.7; 6 Ashley Steer St Richard Gwyn 17.2; 7 Thomaz Phillips Stanwell 17.2; Ht 4 1 Ieuan Orton Bro Morgannwg 14.5; 2 Luke Bowles Stanwell 14.9; Ht 5 3 Rhys Bennett Llantwit Major 16.8; A Final (ws -4.0) 4 Harri Williams Bro Morgannwg 13.7; 5 Harri Thomas Cowbridge 14.0; B Fin (ws -3.6) 2 Ieuan Orton Bro Morgannwg 14.0; 3 Rhys Edwards Barry 14.3; 4 Luke Bowles Stanwell 14.3; 5 Pat Frilles St Richard Gwyn 14.5; 8 Chris Powell Cowbridge 14.8

1,500 Walk: 5 Harri Williams Bro Morgannwg 9:16.5; 6 Tomaz Phillips Stanwell 9:28.8; 7 Deon Garrison Llantwit Major 9:31.6; 8 Robert Tucker St Richard Gwyn 9:32.0; 15 Trenton Scantlebury St Cyres 10:02.4; 16 Rhys Thomas Bro Morgannwg 10:20.7

4x100: Ht 1 1 St Cyres 49.8; 4 Stanwell 52.4; 6 St Richard Gwyn 56.8; Ht 2 2 Cowbridge 50.7; 4 Bro Morgannwg 51.2; Final: 5 Cowbridge 50.8; 8 St Cyres 55.5

HJ: 1 Ieuan Orton Bro Morgannwg 1.60; 3 Ed Howley Llantwit Major 1.50; 8 Adrian Piotrowski St Richard Gwyn 1.45; 10 Robert Tucker St Richard Gwyn 1.40

PV: 3 George Connelly Bro Morgannwg 2.40; 11 Deon Garrison Llantwit Major 1.70

LJ: 1 Tom Williams Stanwell - non scor 5.75; 2 George Griffiths Cowbridge 5.54; 5 Jacob Briscombe Bro Morgannwg 4.92; 9 Adrian Piotrowski St Richard Gwyn 4.81; 10 Matthew Collins Barry 4.79; 14 Rory Hay Stanwell 4.53; 17 Che Pomphrey St Cyres 3.70

TJ: 3 Callum Harding Bro Morgannwg 10.64; 6 Harri Williams Bro Morgannwg 10.23; 8 Rory Hay Stanwell 10.14; 9 Matt Collins Barry 10.06; 11 Scott Laken Cowbridge 9.93; 16 Oliver Thorn St Cyre's 9.49; 19 Tom Dyball Barry 9.10; 21 Harry Thomas Cowbridge 8.98; 23 Ben Murphy Llantwit Major 8.58; 24 Revel Bertram St Cyre's 8.53; 26 Ashley Steer St Richard Gwyn 7.74; 27 Liam Jones St Richard Gwyn 7.47

SP: 1 Joe Gaughan Cowbridge 10.84; 5 Sam Rees- Davies Barry 9.67; 6 Mohamed Awad St Cyres 9.20; 7 Rhys Thomas Bro Morgannwg 9.18; 9 Sam Laity Westbourne 9.05; 12 Hugo Billington Llantwit Major 8.70; 13 Aaron James St Cyres 8.63; 16 Jared Carlton-Webb Cowbridge 8.19

DT: 2 Matteo Holmes Stanwell 26.88; 7 John Miles Barry 22.73; 11 Harry Dowell-Bennett Cowbridge - non scor 21.05; 16 George Connelly Bro Morgannwg 19.45

HT: 1 Matteo Holmes Stanwell 34.89; 3 Aaron James St Cyres 25.74; 8 Hugo Billington Llantwit Major 22.63; 11 Michael Scanell Bro Morgannwg 18.75; 19 Liam Beavis Bro Morgannwg 15.43; 20 Jamie Deguara St Richard Gwyn 14.70; 21 Robbie Tucker St Richard Gwyn 14.52; 22 Trenton Scantlebury St Cyres 13.74; 23 Ben Brown Llantwit Major 13.35

JT: 1 Matteo Holmes Stanwell 40.98; 2 Tom Adams Barry 32.03; 5 Dion Garrison Llantwit Major 28.90; 7 Jacob Burgess Barry 27.5; 8 Harry Stubbington Cowbridge 26.34; 13 Liam Beavis Bro Morgannwg 24.91

Team: 4th Bro Morgannwg 163; 7th Cowbridge 113; 8th Stanwell 101; 9th= Barry Comprehensive 100; 11th St Cyres 94; 13th Llantwit 83; 15th St Richard Gwyn; 20th= Westbourne 21

Junior (u15) Girls – Years 8 & 9

100: Ht 1 4 Madison Declaire Bro Morgannwg 14.6; Ht 2 2 Chelsea Siirak Bro Morgannwg 14.9; 3 Sophie Boyle Stanwell 15.0; 5 Daisy Davies Westbourne 15.2; 6 Paige Jones St Richard Gwyn 15.9; Ht 3 1 Catrin Cosier Bryn Hafren 14.4; 5 Izzy Eddy-Williams Cowbridge 15.0; Final: 1 Catrin Cosier Bryn Hafren 14.2; 6 Madison Declaire Bro Morgannwg 14.9

200: Ht 1 (ws -5.6) 2 Carys Knapman Bryn Hafren 29.9; 6 Paige Jones St Richard Gwyn 33.3; Ht 3 (ws -2.4) 1 Chelsea Siirak Bro Morgannwg 29.0; 3 Rebecca John Cowbridge 30.5; 5 Emily Quick Bryn Hafren 31.9; Final (ws -3.7): 3 Carys Knapman Bryn Hafren 29.7; 4 Chelsea Siirak Bro Morgannwg 30.0

800: 1 Lucy Tarrant Llantwit Major 2:32.8; 4 Annabel Curle Cowbridge 2:38.8; 9 Rachel Cosier Bryn Hafren 2:50.4; 11 Charlie Bowen Bro Morgannwg 2:56.2; 12 Sara Doust Stanwell 2:56.3; 15 Lisa James Bro Morgannwg 3.04.2

1,500: 1 Megan Osborne Llantwit Major 5:12.2; 2 Kate Coker Stanwell 5:25.3; 5 Miriam Bennett Cowbridge 5:43.9; 12 Ffion Davies Bro Morgannwg 6:15.8; 13 Lauren Blake St Richard Gwyn 6:19.7; 14 Bethan Yapp Bro Morgannwg 6:21.4

75H: Ht 1 3 Sarah Lewis Cowbridge 15.3; 4 Zoe Jenkins Bryn Hafren 15.4; 5 Bethan Yapp Bro Morgannwg 16.2; Ht 2 2 Jessica Morgan Bro Morgannwg 14.3; 3 Rachel Cosier Bryn Hafren 16.1; 6 Kate Coker Stanwell 18.0; Ht 3 6 Elle Gwatkin St Richard Gwyn 16.8; Ht 4 1 Amie Parsons Llantwit Major 13.4; 3 Chloe Whitlow St Richard Gwyn 16.0; 6 Charlotte Hobbs St Cyres 17.4; A Final (ws 0.3): 4 Amie Parsons Llantwit Major 13.4; 6 Jessica Morgan Bro Morgannwg 13.9; 7 Sarah Lewis Cowbridge 15.1; B Final (ws -2.1): 2 Rachel Cosier Bryn Hafren 15.2; 3 Chloe Whitlow St Richard Gwyn 15.2; 7 Bethan Yapp Bro Morgannwg 16.7

1,500m Walk: 1 Nancie Edwards Cowbridge 9:46.9; 2 Jessica Morgan Bro Morgannwg 9:53.0; 3 Chantelle Jones Bro Morgannwg 10:00.4; 4 Rachel Cosier Bryn Hafren 10:03.2; 6 Zoe Hodgkinson Bryn Hafren 10:18.9; 7 Emily Gillard St Richard Gwyn 10:32.2; 8 Eleanor Morgan Cowbridge 10:36.3; 14 Katie Phillips Stanwell 11:09.3

4x100: Ht 1 2 Llantwit Major 56.6; 3 Bryn Hafren 56.8; Ht 3 2 Cowbridge 57.7; 4 Stanwell 60.4; 5 St Richard Gwyn 61.4; Final: 2 Llantwit Major 56.8; 4 Bryn Hafren 57.0; 7 Cowbridge 57.5

HJ: 1 Annabel Curle Cowbridge 1.45; 3= Caitlin Allin Cowbridge 1.40; 6 Tamika McCann Bryn Hafren 1.35; 8= Cerren Richards Bro Morgannwg 1.30; 10= Sophie Boyle Stanwell 1.30; 12 Amy Pearson Llantwit Major 1.30; 14= Bethan Yapp Bro Morgannwg 1.25; 14= Catrin Cosier Bryn Hafren 1.25

LJ: 5 Daisy Davies Westbourne 4.14; 6 Caitlin Allin Cowbridge 4.06; 7 Joanna Wilkins Cowbridge 4.05; 8 Chelsea Siirak Bro Morgannwg 4.00; 9 Carys Knapman Bryn Hafren 3.98; 12 Olivia Holt Llantwit Major 3.88; 13 Jessica Morgan Bro Morgannwg 3.76; 16 Rachel Cosier Bryn Hafren 3.52

SP: 2 Ellen Pitt Llantwit Major 7.57; 3 Isabelle Armour Cowbridge 7.53; 9 Adele Saif St Richard Gwyn 6.61; 13 Frankie Hartland Bro Morgannwg 6.18; 14 Keira Gravett St Richard Gwyn 6.13; 15 Lea Phillips Bro Morgannwg 6.02

DT: 1 Isabelle Armour Cowbridge 19.22; 2 Cerren Richards Bro Morgannwg 17.62; 9 Leah Phillips Bro Morgannwg 15.10; 12 Anna Wynne Cowbridge 14.24; 14 Ellis Audas St Cyres 13.64

HT: 3 Frankie Hartland Bro Morgannwg 18.68; 9 Ellis Audas St Cyres 13.98; 10 Danielle Dakin-Weston Llantwit Major 13.27; 12 Lea Phillips Bro Morgannwg 5.55

JT: 1 Danielle Dakin-Weston Llantwit Major 21.33; 2 Emily Gillard St Richard Gwyn 20.38; 7 Erin Murray Stanwell 16.54; 8 Chloe Sheppard Bro Morgannwg 15.58; 13 Annabel Curle Cowbridge 12.53; 14 Olivia Holt Llantwit Major 12.35

Team: 1st Cowbridge 176; 3 Bro Morgannwg 170; 8th Bryn Hafren 110; 9th Llantwit Major 101; 11th St Richard Gwyn; 15th Stanwell 48; 20th Westbourne 13; 21st St Cyres 8

News from Llangeinor Pony Club

Riders compete successfully in Zone finals at Newark

Double celebrations

THERE were double celebrations when Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club teams competed successfully at the Pony Club Prince Philip Cup Zone finals in Newark.

Both A and B teams have qualified to go to the Pony Club Championships to be held in Derbyshire mid August.

The zone competition was held this year at Newark Showground, Leicester. The A team consisting of Tom Lucas, Laura Shillibier, Jessica Hegarty, Natalie Mordecai and Josh Rees finished 3rd just one point behind the Rockwood Harriers team, with Oakley Hunt coming first.

Llangeinor B team surpassed all expectations coming hot on their heels to also qualify for the championships. The B team Beth Granville, Alice Tudor, Sophia Harpin, Sam Shillibier and Max Lucas (not in picture) really pulled out all the stops to get through, beating off competition from 17 other clubs who had qualified from Pony Clubs far and wide, Flint and Denbigh, Essex Union, Morpeth Hunt, Oakley Hunt, Cheshire North Hunt, North Warwickshire, Cleveland Hunt and Rockwood Harriers.

The competition was great, but both Llangeinor teams under the watchful eye of their trainers, Jonathan Thomas and Jonathon Tudor, came a step closer to their chance of competing at the Horse of the Year Show to be held in October at the NEC Birmingham.

They will now travel to Derbyshire mid August to again compete against Pony Clubs from all over England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

They have all made a huge commitment and will be training hard for the championships, but before then they have also qualified to compete at the Royal Welsh Show, which is a great honour for the club to compete on home ground.

They really enjoy taking part in the Royal Welsh Show and will be trying to repeat their win from last year. The rest of the Llangeinor members fully support them and wish them the very best of luck.







Jack Elms riding Rusty

Great win for our Frogspawn and Tadpole Triathletes

Our younger members were on top form when they competed at the superb venue of The Elms School, Ledbury recently.

They were up against teams from Ledbury, West Warwickshire, Curre, Radnor, Cotswold Vale, Berkely, South Hereford and Ross.

Jack Tudor won his class with best run and 1st boy over all. Their Frogspawn team who were Harriet Tudor, Thomas Pugh and Jack came a most worthy second, to the Beaufort Hunt Pony Club.

Tom's brother Henry is already a keen supporter and looking forward to being in their team!

Not even a cloudburst could stop our Tadpole team – Mali Howell, Molly-Ann Rees and Stephanie Brownbill from coming first in their competition.

Mali had best swim and best shoot, and Molly-Ann had best run. When it came their turn to ride the cross country course, the heavens opened, but they still carried on through the thunder and lightening to ride clear rounds, and win outright.

Libby Jervis, William Jervis and Morgan Thomson also did very well and were all placed in the ribbons in their groups, with a special rosette being awarded to Matthew Jervis for doing so well in his first Tetrathlon.

MARION ELLIOTT
(District Commissioner)



Frogspawn team



Mali Howell, Molly-Ann Rees and Stephanie Brownbill



Bridgend police open day was a huge cell-out!

2,000 pack into Brackla station for family fun

THE first-ever Bridgend Police Station open day on Sunday has been hailed a huge success, with up to 2,000 people attending the event.

The family fun day was organised by South Wales Police in partnership with other community organisations.

Gates at the Brackla Street Police Station opened at 11am for the free five-hour event, which included music from Bridge FM, specialist police and crime prevention stalls, the Fire Service and the Royal Navy, a spokesman reports.

Local officers were on hand to show how crimes are solved using fingerprint technology while the police cells, police dogs and horses, vehicles and museum stand also proved big attractions.

Detective Chief Inspector Marc Lamerton, who co-ordinated the event, said: "It was a great opportunity for people to meet their local officers in an informal way and it highlighted that South Wales Police are very much part of the local community.



"I am delighted that the good people of Bridgend, and further afield, had the opportunity to enjoy a day with us and I hope it reassured them about the commitment of South Wales Police, and the PACT process, to improve their quality of life and how hard we are working for them.

"We could not have organised this event without the help of our partners within Safer Bridgend and I am truly grateful to all those who helped make the day such a tremendous success."





Children ready for summer Space Hop!

CHILDREN will be launched into orbit for an intergalactic adventure with the 2010 Space Hop summer reading challenge.

The 4–12 year youngsters can complete the challenge at any library in Bridgend county borough four times from July 10 to September 11. All materials are free of charge, with stickers and prizes awarded for each visit.

The spokeswoman said: "The space themed challenge enables children to go boldly into new worlds, discover the joy of reading and nurture a lifelong love affair with reading and books. Illustrated by leading children's book artist Tom Percival, 'Space Hop' coincides with the 350th anniversary of The Royal Society's scientific endeavours, and the 2010 BBC Year of Science."

Large print materials will be available for visually impaired children, and family leaflets will also be available for parents and carers, explaining the benefits of taking part and suggesting ways of supporting children by providing joint reading ideas for the whole family to enjoy.

All children who complete the challenge will be presented with a certificate and medal at a special awards ceremony to be held in school assembles in the autumn.

Rugby legend Scott opens literacy suite



Scott Quinnell with cabinet members Couns David Sage, Huw David and Lyn Morgan at the official opening.

WALES and British Lions rugby legend Scott Quinnell joined the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Colin Teesdale, to officially open Ton Pentre Suite at Pyle Life Centre to help adults improve literacy and numeracy skills.

The suite is the centre for Bridgend Library Service's ELIBS (engaging learners in basic skills) project and is partly funded with grants from Cymal (Museums, Archives, Libraries Wales).

The rugby star was born dyslexic, but it was not diagnosed until adulthood. He now regularly speaks about the condition, and at Pyle he met school children, members of the Ton Pentre Suite's readers' group and other users, who all received a signed copy of his book *The Hardest Test*, about his own personal struggle with reading and writing.

Scott said: "There are lots of people like me who lost out on education earlier in life. Many have been forgotten about and it is important that we give everyone a chance to learn, whatever their age.

"The Ton Pentre Suite is fantastic and is a credit to Bridgend County Borough Council, showing that adult learners here aren't forgotten and have been given a great opportunity.

"I am extremely proud to be even a small part of that."

Alan Thomas attends the suite twice a week for literacy and numeracy classes, and is also a member of the fortnightly reading group.

He commented: "Today has been such a good experience for me. I'm not very confident and wasn't even sure if I was going to stay all afternoon, but I really have enjoyed myself and it has been extra special because Scott's book is the first I have ever read cover to cover."

Counc Lyn Morgan, BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "This is a fantastic facility which will benefit many people.

"Scott Quinnell knows better than anyone the need for great support, whether it is in a game of rugby or in the classroom.

"This suite offers a place where people can get just that, in a friendly and informal environment. Well done to the council and its partners for making this happen."



Lovell regional training manager Mike Davis (on right) presenting the £500 cheque to Jon Bailey, organiser of the Maesteg Three Peaks Challenge team.

Maesteg six raise £2,000 to boost Help the Heroes

SIX Maesteg men completed the Three Peaks Challenge to raise £2,000 for forces charity Help for Heroes – and were then given a £500 boost by the Lovell company.

Jon Bailey, Darren Morgan, Jonathan Jones, Matthew Dawkins, Mark Dixon and Nigel Davies, who all live in Maesteg, undertook the challenge to climb the highest mountains in Wales, Scotland and England in less than 24 hours.

Their friend, Siân Noke, a construction site foreman with Lovell, organised a fundraising drive collecting donations from the company, staff members and the firm's contractor partners.

"The challenge is really tough and it was great to be able to contribute so much to the money raised," said Siân.

"I'd like to thank everyone at Lovell who helped, and the contractors we work with, for their generosity."

CAERAU PUPILS EXPLAIN WHY WE NEED THE BEES

YOUNG students from Caerau Primary School are busy working with Theatr Na N'Og rehearsing for a free community performance of *We Need Bees*, tomorrow, July 9, at 1.30pm in the old Blaenllynfi School site in Caerau.



The first day of the We Need Bees' workshop with Janet Martin of Bridgend Beekeepers Association and pupils from Caerau Primary School.

A spokeswoman explained that the play looks at the many issues faced by bees in the current environmental climate, including the use of pesticides, organic farming, pollution, allotment creation and intensive farming.

The workshops are supported by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development, Sustrans, Theatr Na n'Og, Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Bridgend Beekeepers Association and the National Society of allotments and leisure gardeners, to give a practical dimension to the themes explored in the play, and to link with regeneration projects in Caerau.

The performance will also be accompanied by an exhibition of the children's set and costume designs, and a display from pupils at Maesteg Comprehensive School.

As part of the publicity related to the new cycle path planned along the Llynfi Valley, arts and community development have been working with art students from Maesteg Comprehensive School.

The pupils have worked as a professional art team and created a series of PowerPoint presentations, art impressions and three-dimensional models, giving their own ideas for a potential gateway feature in Maesteg.

These ideas will also be presented on July 9 at the performance of *We Need Bees*.

Bunting will highlight town's festival

THE Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival has decided on a new way of highlighting activities around the town over the weekend of October 30-31.

Instead of using helium balloons, the festival will be creating their own festive bunting to drape on marquees, awnings, gateways and around buildings to show where festival and fringe events are happening.

The beginning of the making process is from 10am until noon on July 13 at The Linen Cupboard on Penny Lane, where a regular group of sewers meet to 'stitch and bitch'.

All are welcome, so bring along your sewing machine or pinking shears and join in for a social sew!

If you are unable to make it, but have some fabric that you are willing to part with, please drop it into The Linen Cupboard any time before then.

We are looking for anything bright and cheerful, plain or patterned from old curtains to holey discarded clothes. There are many activities over the festival weekend that need to be draped, so lots of fabric will be required.

The reason for moving away from balloons was in response to some feedback regarding their environmental impact.

Helium balloons had been used to highlight different activities around the town and been given out as a marketing tool.

Balloons are detrimental to the environment as they decompose very slowly and find their way into waterways, oceans and mountains – where wild animals can consume them, with dreadful results.

Bunting is a fantastic eco friendly and creative alternative, and will help bring a colourful, carnival atmosphere to this year's festival.

If you are planning an activity for the weekend and would like to apply for some festival bunting, please email: info:cowbridgefoodanddrink.org.

POLLY WILSON
(event manager)

Talking about homes

RESIDENTS are invited to find out more about new affordable homes being built in Coychurch, near Bridgend, at a community information event on Tuesday, July 13, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm at the Lovell site office, Coychurch Road.

As part of the Coed Castell development, affordable housing specialist Lovell is building 16 two and three-bedroom houses for affordable rent for Wales & West Housing Association.

Lovell community development officer Gemma Davies said: "Residents will be able to talk to our team, look at plans for the housing and discuss any questions they may have.

"Working closely with the community is important to us, and we look forward to meeting people at the information event."

Jenny Williams, housing manager for Bridgend, commented: "This is another high quality development of affordable housing by WWHA in the Bridgend area.

"We're looking forward to discussing this development with the community."

GEM Quiz League weekly posers...

HERE are your four-for-thought weekly questions:

1) Which British bird has species named Ringed, Kentish and Golden?

2) Which of the planets has the satellites Calypso, Phoebe and Titan?

3) In the 2009 Formula One season, who was Sebastian Vettel's co-driver in the Brawn team?

4) Which element has the highest melting point of any metal?

A RUDGE
(Hon Sec, BGQL)

ANSWERS:
1.Plover
2.Saturn
3.Mark Webber
4.Tungsten

Local art teachers put on exhibition

LOCAL art teachers Lloyd Rowe and Karen Saunders have opened a new exhibition of their work at the newly-refurbished Kenfig National Nature Reserve visitor centre near Porthcawl.

'Details of Nature' opened on Saturday, July 3, and will be on show until July 30.

Maesteg Comprehensive School teacher Lloyd Rowe has held exhibitions of his artwork since last summer at Porthcawl Pavilion and Swansea Grand Theatre.



Pupils Alisha Lewis, Hannah Lewis, Sophie Thomas (left to right) from Maesteg Comprehensive School, are pictured during the gateway design project.

Cor Bro Ogwr – in concert

THE summer concert given by Cor Bro Ogwr is taking place at Nolton Church on Saturday, July 17, at 7.30pm.

The programme features *Missa Brevis* in C by Mozart; *Te Deum* by Haydn; *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Faure and *Requiem of Loss* composed by their very talented conductor Edward Rhys Harry.

Following the choir's success with *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins in April, the choir and its supporters are looking forward to what they believe will be a memorable concert.

For tickets, telephone 01656 653326.

SCHOOL FAIR

THIS year's summer fair, which took place at Llangan Primary School on July 3, was an outstanding success.

Children and parents were able to take part in the various activities, and stalls had a variety of goodies to be won or bought.

The highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of the local fire service, so the children could climb aboard the vehicle and be shown how things worked.

Our own well-known TV personality, Justina Simpson, a former pupil of Llangan School, was there enjoying the sunshine with her fiance´.

A big thank you to headteacher Mary Noyes, members of the school staff and everyone who helped to make this year's fair such an enjoyable occasion.

Following the successful afternoon fair, parents with their children returned to the school playing field for an entertaining evening of music by the Cardiff-based Richard Jones Living Entertainment.

Families took along refreshments for an enjoyable picnic.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

St Crallo's, Coychurch!

PLEASE NOTE! The annual barbecue and fete will take place on Saturday, July 17 at St Crallo's.

In last week's GEM, St Canna's, Llangan, was mistakenly given as the venue.

Playing field

THE over-grown playing field which has prevented children playing on it at Treoes, has now been cut and the bales removed by a local farmer – but there are other areas at Treoes which are in need of some tender loving care!

Jobseekers' allowances up by 130 per cent

Borough council counts the cost of the recession

by JAYNE ISAAC

A PICTURE of how Bridgend has been affected by the recession was presented to the cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in a report.

The report revealed that the area had been very hard hit by what has been the deepest recession since the Second World War.

The job losses, which were in the hundreds, represented 3.6 per cent of the borough's total workforce of 53,700 between April 2008 and March 2009.

The biggest single loss during this period was the closure of the Budelpack-Cosi factory – on the old Revlon site – which was the largest employer in Maesteg.

But automotive, construction, financial services and retail were all badly hit as well.

The number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance rose by 130 per cent between June 2008 and November 2009 – from 1,632 to 3,761.

This rise is the third highest in Wales by local authority area and higher than the average Welsh increase of 92 per cent. The percentage of the working age population claiming unemployment benefits also more than doubled – rising from 2 per cent to 4.6 per cent between those two dates.

The rise in the Ogmore constituency part of the borough over the year to June 2009 was 3.5 per cent – the highest in Wales.

The council has been working with various organisations and businesses in the borough to create job opportunities, develop skills and to ensure investment in sustainable long-term projects.

Schemes to encourage business investment have created 214 jobs and have safeguarded a further 476.

Thirty seven new enterprises have been created, and a further 132 have been supported.

Looking at population projections until 2021, it is predicted that Bridgend's population will rise from 132,584 to 144,600 – a nine per cent increase.

But the number of young people aged up to 15 will decrease by 1.18 per cent while the number of older people aged 65 plus will increase by 28.9 per cent.

This means that the council has to plan future services carefully. Things such as schools and social care will be crucially affected by population changes.

The borough also has significant health issues. Bridgend has 23.8 per cent of its population – 19,000 people – with a disability compared with 19.1 per cent for Wales as whole.

A quarter of the population has a limiting long-term illness and life expectancy for both men and women is below the Welsh average.

For men it is 76 years, compared to 77 for Wales, and for women it is 80 compared to 81.

The borough also has 11 per cent of its adult population being treated for mental illness, compared to the Welsh average of nine per cent.

More than 98 per cent of the population is from a white ethic background – just 1.4 per cent is black or a minority ethnic background.

Seventy per cent describe themselves as Christian.



Porthcawl Lions' handover time!

THE Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl, was the venue for this year's Porthcawl Lions handover ceremony, when outgoing Lions' president Geoff Thomas surrendered the role to the year 2010/11 incumbent, Ralph Anslow (above).

In his closing address, Geoff paid tribute to the support he had received from the members, in particular his wife Wendy, and the other officers of the club.

He added that he had very much enjoyed being club president and wished his successor well during his year of office.

In reply, Ralph thanked members of the club for their support and stated that he looked forward to working with the membership, raising money for charities locally, nationally and internationally. JC

Coed-y-Mwstwr ladies hold their open day



ABOVE: Sheila Dymond, Nicola Hopkins and Jackie Summerton

AFTER weeks of glorious sunshine, it was disappointing to wake up to threatening skies heralding the Coed-y-Mwstwr Ladies Open.

The format of the day was a three ball team competition, with the best two stableford scores to count.

Winners on the day were the team of Sheila Dymond, Nicola Hopkins and Jackie Summerton, all of Coed –Y-Mwstwr, with an excellent 88 points.

Just one point behind was the team of lady captain Julie Reade, playing with Jan Evans and Maureen Waldron, both from the Maesteg Golf Club.

In third place with 83 points was the team comprising Hazel Daniels, Pat John and Karen James from the Vale of Glamorgan Golf Club on 83 points.

The longest drive was taken by Meg Allen (crediting it all to red wine and clean living), while nearest the pin was Hazel Daniel.

The day was enjoyed by all and the ladies section at Coed-Y-Mwstwr would like to thank all the visitors for making the effort to play.

Disabled allotment site in Maesteg is officially opened

A SPECIAL allotment for the disabled and visually impaired has been opened in Maesteg.

Welsh rugby legend, Gareth Edwards, who is president of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, went along to the allotment site at Garth to open the Bronfair Garden for the Disabled.

The weather was grand and a choir of children from Garth Primary School entertained the guests with a selection of songs from *Grease*.

The creation of the garden was down to a lot of hard work by members of the Bridgend County Allotment Association, who were approached last autumn by the Bridgend and District Visually Impaired Society, to see if they had a piece of allotment land that could host a gardening club for visually impaired members.

The association did have a piece of very overgrown land on the allotment site in Garth and it was the only plot available on all 11 sites which they manage because of the huge demand for allotments at the moment.

Spokeswoman Linda Williams said that the association had just received some funding to enlarge the car park so when the machine came in to clear the land for that, they also had it to clear the overgrown allotment site as well.

By last October, the site had been cleared and the two organisations started looking for funding to create the first specially-designed and built garden for the visually impaired and disabled within the borough.



ABOVE: Gareth Edwards cuts the ribbon, watched by Maesteg Mayor, Coun Phil John.

Linda added: "It was agreed very early on that other disabled groups would be involved and Every Link Counts and the Stroke Association were approached and came on board."

Plans were drawn up for the 450 sq metre site which included paths suitable for wheelchair users, a large meeting shed, a polytunnel, raised growing beds and a compost loo which was also wheelchair accessible.

The money was obtained from various sources, including £9.200 from Maesteg Town Council plus funding from the Western Valley Strategic Initiative via BCBC.

Other money came from 02 It's your community, Zurich, The Borg Warner Workforce Charitable Fund and the National Lottery.

Contractors started work in February and by April all the groundworks had been completed.

Other allotment holders and volunteers helped erect the poly tunnel.

At the opening ceremony, the chair of Bridge VIS, Julie Thomas, said that gardening was enjoyed by many but often taken for granted.

She said that losing your sight often resulted in losing the ability to join in a hobby that gives real pleasure.

"This garden with its raised beds, fully paved paths and volunteers to help will overcome the difficulties they face.

"This will give visually impaired and disabled people a chance to get out and socialise.

This is an amazing facility which everyone can enjoy and it is money well spent," she commented.

Bridge VIS welcomes anyone who wants to help out or take part in this gardening club.



THE NEW ALLOTMENT AT GARTH.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE BOROUGH?

Maes Yr Haul Primary School – **Ffordd Tirion, Broadlands, Bridgend** – erect two 6m flagpoles at front entrance of school.

Principality Pension Trust – **Land off Main Avenue, Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – illuminated totem pole sign.

Bryn Hyfryd Camping – **Ffordd Y Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend** – change of use to general commercial site with a maximum of 39 pitches.

O2 UK Ltd – **Highway adjacent St Johns Drive and New Road (Near Trecco Bay entrance), Porthcawl, Bridgend** – 12.5m column to accommodate six antennae and two ground based cabinets.

Mr S Bailey – **18 Sunnyside Road, Bridgend** – Construct new garage.

Mr P Brooks – **4 Penyfai Road, Aberkenfig** – Erect detached double garage.

Christian Youth Outreach – **77 Nolton Street, Bridgend** – Replace existing shopfront, alterations to building, new entrance to side, alter ground floor layout.

Centrica Resources Ltd – **Land east of Cefn Machen Uchaf Farm, Llangeinor, Bridgend** – three drilling compounds and associated infrastructure and temp to test suitability for methane gas extraction.

Mr B Reilly – **48 Crescent Road, Sarn** – Two-storey side extension and extension to detached garage.

Miss L C Tasker – **77 Bryntirion Hill, Bridgend** – Proposed first floor extension.

Centrica Resources Ltd – **Land east of Pontyrhyl, Llangeinor, Bridgend** – three drilling compounds and associated infrastruture and temp to test suitability for methane gas extraction.

Pontycymmer Bowls Club – **Pontycymmer Bowls Pavillion, Gwaunbant, Pontycymmer, Bridgend** – Erection of portakabin to eastern end of bowls pavillion (7m x 2.2m x 3m) to provide changing room (five-year period).

Mrs C Rance – **Parcau 132, New Road, Porthcawl, Bridgend** – Two-storey and single storey extension to rear for use as utility room, kitchen and bathrooms.

Mr R Granville – **Cartref, Gelli Farm, Cefn Cribbwr, Bridgend** – New roof with dormers to existing bungalow.

Ms S Davies – **58 John Street, Porthcawl, Bridgend** – Rear access stairs to first floor flat.

Mr R Lloyd-Davies – **49 Heol Bryncwils, Sarn, Bridgend** – Dormer window to rear elevation in association with proposed loft conversion.

Mr R Hancock – **10 Willow Close, Porthcawl, Bridgend** – Dormer extension at rear of property.

Bridgend Custodial Services – **HMP and YOI Parc, Heol Hopcyn John, Bridgend** – New generator.

Mr A Ross – **59 Ewenny Road, Bridgend** – Single storey extension.

Mr P Collins – **5 Orchard Drive, Porthcawl, Bridgend** – Conversion of existing garage into a study and utility room.

NOISY OFFICE PUTS OFF SOCIAL WORKERS

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

A COUNCIL investigation into why social workers leave employment with BCBC has identified the open-plan office arrangements at the Sunnyside offices as being a factor.

A series of exit interviews with social workers leaving the council were conducted to try and identify ways of retaining social workers.

Apart from personal reasons for people leaving, the noisy, open-plan working environment for them has been described in very negative terms.

The children and young people's scrutiny committee has reported to cabinet the results of its investigation.

Its report states: "*While an open plan office may facilitate a supportive team environment, the lack of quiet space had been described as a contributory factor influencing social workers' decisions to leave the authority.*"

The committee is urging the cabinet to prioritise the "reasonable accommodation needs of front line social workers and their supervisors" including providing quiet working space.

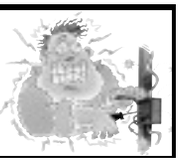
The scrutiny committee added that the "fragile" nature of the recovery of children's safeguarding services, which were in special measures for a while, means that this action should be taken urgently.

A corporate accommodation review is currently under way which acknowledges the importance of minimising noise distraction but there are still difficulties in the Sunnyside offices and improvements have yet to be realised.



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Birthdays

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BVet Med MRCVS
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XXXX

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Family Notices

Geoff BURNETT
Marilyn and family wish to thank all those who attended Geoff's funeral on July 1.
For the kind messages, donations to Marie Curie, Holme Tower and for all the wonderful support and kindness shown by so many at this sad time.

LANE
Andrea Lorraine
Peacefully on June 27 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Ann of Llantwit Major.
Beloved wife of Graham, loving mother of Stephen and Christopher, much loved grandmother of Rhys Steffan and William, dear daughter of Catherine and dearly loved sister of Keith and Alex.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday July 9, service 11.45am at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.15pm. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

Brenda Boulton nee Evans
Passed away peacefully on Monday, 5th July at The Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend.
She was a devoted wife to Ray, dearly loved mum of Michael and Lesley, dear mother in-law of Marie, loving nan to Donna and Jemma, great nan to Ashleigh, much loved sister of Gwyneth and Mary.
She will be greatly missed by all family and friends and everyone who's life she touched. A truly lovely lady who was taken from us far too soon.
The funeral service will take place at St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, 15th July at 10.45am, Followed by service and cremation at Coychurch Bridgend at 12.00 noon.
All floral tributes will be greatly appreciated because Brenda always loved to have flowers around her.

JAYNES
Ivor John
After a short illness, Ivor of Llantwit Major passed away on the 1st July 2010. He was a much loved brother, uncle and friend to many.
Funeral service on Tuesday 13th July in St.Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 2.00pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.
Sadly missed by all his family and friends. RIP
Alan, Valerie, Amanda, Allen, Ifor, Lisa, Rhys, Anne and David, Angela and Richard.

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'Don't put out rubbish early!'

THE issue of black rubbish bags being put out too early was discussed at Llantwit Major's latest PACT meeting on June 29.

Coun Gwyn John pointed out: "There are a high number of black bags being put out too early, especially in the Carne Court area of the town.

"The bags should not be put out for collection before 7am on collection day or late the previous evening.

"In some cases, rubbish is dumped at the collection point days in advance."

Coun John and Coun Sally Bagstaff appealed to residents to follow council rules.

Coun John added: "At this time of year, the seagulls and other wildlife pull the bags to pieces and we are left with a huge clean up problem.

"I know that many residents obey the rules, but to others I would ask, please help us to support you in keeping your area a clean environment."



LEFT:
The winning team at the first tee at Royal Porthcawl.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00572/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing house and construction of new house as approved under Planning Permission 2008/00999/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad: Maes Melyn, Westgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00603/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New dwelling and garage
Location:/Lleoliad: Plot adjacent to the Old Bakehouse, Greenfield Way, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00584/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of timber and double glazed conservatory
Location:/Lleoliad: Castle Upon Alun House, St Brides Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00589/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Fixing of fascia signs onto the front of the pavilion building and one to the rear to request support of the renovation of the pier building
Location:/Lleoliad: Penarth Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Conservation Area Consent
Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00573/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing house and construction of new house as approved under Planning Permission 2008/00999/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad: Maes Melyn, Westgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00608/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing extensions and porch
Location:/Lleoliad: Raisdale Cottage, Alberta Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00597/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of condition 3 of approval reference 07/00841/FUL in relation to alternative amended plans for the scheme
Location:/Lleoliad: Beechwood College, Hayes Road, Sully

Application Nos:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/00946/OUT and 2009/00947/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way
Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application Nos:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/00946/OUT and 2009/00947/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

Application(s) submitted with an Environmental Statement
Ceisiadau a gyflwynwyd gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry.

I give notice that Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, Persimmon Homes Ltd, and BDW is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision. (Two identical applications)

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Non Technical Summary of the environmental statement at a charge of £15.00 excluding VAT from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, 1st Floor Westville House, Fitzalan Court, Cardiff. CF24 0EL so long as stocks last. An electronic CD-ROM version of the environmental statement can also be purchased from Nathaniel Lichfield and partners for the cost of £50.00 excluding VAT.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 29 July, 2010.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 29 July 2010 quoting references 2009/00946/OUT and 2009/00947/OUT.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, Persimmon Homes Ltd, and BDW n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision. (Two identical applications)

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Non Technical Summary of the environmental statement at a charge of £15.00 excluding VAT from Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, 1st Floor Westville House, Fitzalan Court, Cardiff. CF24 0EL so long as stocks last. An electronic CD-ROM version of the environmental statement can also be purchased from Nathaniel Lichfield and partners for the cost of £50.00 excluding VAT.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 29 July, 2010.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 29 July 2010 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2009/00946/OUT and 2009/00947/OUT.

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 8 July, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 8 Gorffennaf, 2010
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Charity is boosted by golf day

IT was one of the biggest fundraising days in the short history of Cowbridge-based cancer charity Glaze which raises funds to treat prostate conditions.

More than 140 golfers from all over the UK turned up at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club for the seventh annual GLAZE charity golf competition, helping to raise more than £10,000.

A Glaze spokesman said: "It's proving to be a popular competition on the south Wales golfing calendar, with competitors taking part from as far afield as France."

The course at Royal Porthcawl was in pristine condition following the Wales Seniors Ryder Cup Open.

However, after Woosnam, now it was turn of some other Welsh big hitters, with a local team captained by Eddie Brooke from Llanblethian picking up the Glaze trophy.

They were the first team off the tee and set the standard, as no one came close to catching them all day. Mr Brooke said he was "delighted and glad the day had been such a success for a very worthwhile charity".

He was already looking forward to the next event, he said.

An extra bonus was the presentation of prizes by former World Cup referee, the legendary Clive Thomas, himself a friend of Glaze and one of the best-ever referees of the modern game whose sometimes provocative and controversial views continue to be sought-after and frequently aired on Talk Sport and Radio Five Live.

LLANTWIT MAJOR BOWLS

Another week of wins for the bowlers

LLANTWIT had another successful week of bowls.

On Wednesday in the Munro Cup, Barry Athletic were the visitors with Llantwit coming out on top with a 77–66 shot win.

Graham Jones' rink led the way against Billy Wright's rink, outbowling them to come home with a nineteen shot advantage.

Charles Hiscock's rink had a much closer game to win by four shots.

Alan Gibbard's rink were up against it from the start, with the opposing skip making some good take-out shots for the visitors to win by nine shots.

Danny Ahearn's rink were their own worst enemies giving shots away so eventually losing by three shots.

Rink scores: Graham Jones 33–14, Charles Hiscock 16–12, Alan Gibbard 11–20, Danny Ahearn 17–20.

In Saturday's league match against Cardiff West End, Llantwit notched up another good win 97–67 shots to maintain their unbeaten record.

Graham Jones' rink took a commanding lead only to fall away on the final few ends to win by just four shots.

Charles Hiscock's rink took the lead straight away, winning ends by the odd shot before accelerating after fifteen ends to win by seventeen shots.

Danny Ahearn's rink were in a high scoring match, taking seven shots on one end with a further two six shot scores.

It was a strange sort of a match, with Llantwit winning at one end and West End on the opposite end, but nevertheless a most welcome win.

Alan Gibbard's rink had tough opponents with the West End skip excelling himself. Llantwit came back to draw level at thirteen shots apiece before the visitors added a further four shots to win.

Rink scores: Graham Jones 20–16, Charles Hiscock 29–12, Danny Ahearn 35–22, Alan Gibbard 13–17.

JY

Good points haul for Llantwit Major ladies

LLANTWIT MAJOR Ladies Bowls Club welcomed Pencoed for a Cowbridge Challenge Shield match at home.

It was a hard fought game and Llantwit lost on two rinks, won on one and took the overall win thanks to Peggy Pike and her rink, who won exceptionallly well. Llantwit took six out of 10 points.

The rinks were: Liz Crouch, Margaret Morgan, Marian Lewis and Peggy Pike, who won 31-7; Kay Johnes, Ann Mutlow, Etta Gray, Carol Willmot (11-15); and Edna Hardie, Margaret Horgan, Val Baelz and Jean Voss (13-16).

On Thursday, the team travelled to Barry Athletic for a league match. In an enjoyable game, Llantwit won on two rinks and drew on the other, taking nine out of the 10 points.

The rinks were Kay Johnes, Ann Mutlow, Peggy Pike and Margaret Morgan (15-15); Edna Hardie, Barbara Lewis, Carol Willmot and Marian Lewis (27-9); Liz Crouch, Pat Cook, Eryl Nicholls and Etta Gray (19-11).

County call-up for Murch juniors

MURCH juniors Conner Parsons and Robert Grant have been selected to play for the Vale of Glamorgan under-18 county rinks at Penllan Bowling Club on Sunday, July 27.

A club spokesman said: "The club congratulates them on being selected and wishes them well in any future county games."

BP

IN BRIEF

Dog show

BARRY, Penarth and South Glamorgan Canine Society is holding a companion dog show in aid of the Amelia Trust at 11am on July 25.

The event will be held at the Amelia Trust Farm, Whitton Rosser, on the Five Mile Lane.

Floral demo

ON July 13, Barry Floral Society will hold a demonstration at 2.15pm by Mrs Lucretia Goode of Newport, entitled 'No Primrose Path'. New members welcome.



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Llandow Kart Club hosts round five

The blazing sunshine brings out the racers

AFTER the success of May's Welsh Championship meeting, Llandow Kart Club returned to the business of determining its annual champions with round five of the club championship taking place under blazing June sunshine.

With the Dadson and NKRA Southern series helping to swell the entry, more than a 100 drivers ignored the football World Cup to sign on for the Fathers' Day action, and again produced some captivating competition.

The Bambino category saw Alex Austin and Morgan Chell joined by Jackson Apps, who promptly set the fastest Bambino lap yet seen at Llandow. All three drivers produced personal best times, however, leaving each satisfied with their efforts.

New Welsh champion Robbie Gallier underlined his good form by dominating a 16-strong Cadet Honda class throughout, although he was made to wait for victory in the final after Yousuf Ashraf brought out the red flags on lap one after being thrown from his kart. Ashraf's condition was diagnosed as concussion.

A total of 34 Cadet entries meant a split grid for the 17 Comer runners – plus WTP's Jack Crisp - for the second month running. Mirroring Gallier's success, new Welsh champion Harry Williams took victory in the final, but only after a five-kart scrap that saw him get the better of podium finishers Ryan Anderton and Bradley Drowne.

Maintaining the Welsh champion theme, Lloyd Sealy produced a clean sweep in Junior Honda.

Junior TKM produced three different winners from each of its three heats, but an old face returned to the top of the pile in the final as Sebastian Hutchinson came out on top over Ross Chell.

Cadet graduate Niall Williams eventually claimed third after fellow graduate Jed Hicks retired.

The poorly supported Junior TKM 4-Stroke class allowed Welsh champion Andrew Davies to complete a victory sweep with novice Ryan Jones second.

In contrast, Junior Rotax produced another big grid and some close racing, although Cody Tree claimed victory in the final after leading from start to finish and opening out a two-second gap over his pursuers.

MiniMax produced a clean sweep for multiple club champion Macaulay Austin.

A depleted Senior Honda field ensured another clean sweep, this time for new Welsh champion Simon Evans.

The only time Evans appeared threatened was in heat two, where veteran Paul Saunders almost got the victory, but, come the final, it was Ferdinand Ball leading the pursuit, with Saunders having to settle for third.

Senior Rotax again proved competitive, with 15 entries chasing the honours. Ultimately, however, the Welsh champion thread continued, with recently crowned Dan Jones taking a comfortable win in the final.

The accompanying Rotax 177 class went the way of Wayne Stone, with David Peddie and Simon Wheeler giving chase.

The guesting NKRA series produced two strong classes, and some close racing. In Junior Blue, Ben Pearson appeared favourite for the final after dominating the heats, but Ryan Edgecumbe and Ash Goodliffe had other ideas and pushed him back to third in the main event, as novice Alana Taylor finished fourth.

Senior Blue, meanwhile, saw Craig Copeland take an easy six-second win despite some frantic scraps going on behind him. David Washington came out best from these in the final, holding off Duncan McLeod for second.

Although Dadson numbers were down on previous visits to Llandow, the class continued to produce some good racing, as Melvin Francis claimed the main event win from Greg Finke and Kevin Gilbert.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO – 1. Jackson Apps (Topkart); 1. Alex Austin (Zip); 1.Morgan Chell (CRG).

CADET HONDA – 1. Robbie Gallier (Project One); 2. George Thomson (Project One); 3. Ari White (Project One).

CADET COMER – 1. Harry Williams (Zip); 2. Ryan Anderton (BRM); 3. Bradley Drowne (BRM).

CADET WTP – 1. Jack Crisp (Tonykart).

JUNIOR HONDA – 1. Lloyd Sealy (MS); 2. Jamie Warren (Wright); 3. Alex Thomas (Jade).

JUNIOR TKM 2-STROKE – 1. Sebastian Hutchinson (Intrepid); 2. Ross Chell (Tonykart); 3. Niall Williams (Storm).

JUNIOR TKM 4-STROKE – 1. Andrew Davies (Jade); 2. Ryan Jones (CRG).

JUNIOR ROTAX – 1. Cody Tree (Kosmic); 2. Josh Collings (CRG); 3. Oliver Pidgley (Kosmic).

MINI MAX – 1. Macaulay Austin (Maranello); 2. James Williams (Tonykart); 3. Morgan Rose (Tonykart).

SENIOR HONDA – 1. Simon Evans (7Kart); 2. Ferdinand Ball (MS); 3. Paul Saunders (7Kart).

SENIOR ROTAX – 1. Dan Jones (Tonykart); 2. Chris Davis (Storm); 3. Michael Kent (Tonykart).

ROTAX 177 – 1. Wayne Stone (Tonykart); 2. David Peddie (Kosmic); 3. Simon Wheeler (CRG).

JUNIOR BLUE – 1. Ryan Edgecumbe (Tonykart); 2. Ashley Goodliffe (Zip); 3. Ben Pearson (Tonykart).

SENIOR BLUE – 1. Craig Copeland (Mac); 2. David Washington (Tonykart); 3. Duncan McLeod (Tecno).

DADSON MASTERS – 1. Melvin Francis (Kosmic); 2. Greg Finke (Alonso); 3. Kevin Gilbert (Tonykart).

Best novice: Ryan Edwards (Cadet Honda).

Driver of the Day: Alana Taylor (Junior Blue).

Best presented kart: David Peddie (Rotax 177)

Report: CRAIG LLEWELLYN/ HENRYBEAUDETTE

Llantwit youth summer camps

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC mini and junior section is busy preparing for its summer camps which will be split into three age groups this year.

The first camp will take place from July 19-21 for six to eight year olds. The second camp will take place on July 26-28 for nine to 10 year olds, and the third will take place from August 2-4 for 11 and 12 year olds. The children will have two days coaching and on the third day go on a 'stadium tour day'.

The cost of the camp is £60. Places are limited to fifteen per camp. For more information, please contact chairman Richard Godwin on richard.godwin@tiscali.co.uk or 07952927568.

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08 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles **£9,495**

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07 57 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Cool 5-dr hatchback in Arctic silver with Galand black interior, air con, cd, immobiliser, £35 a year road tax, one owner, only 37,845 miles..... **£6,995**

07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles **£7,295**

06 06 FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.8 TDCi Diesel 5-Dr Hatchback. In black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 61,199 miles, quick clean screen..... **£6,995**

05 55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles..... **£5,795**

05 05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£6,495**

05 05 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr hatchback. In oriental blue with blue/black Tomy interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser only 39,840 miles **£4,295**

04 54 BMW 3 Series 2.2 320i Sport Touring 5-Dr Estate. In silver grey with black suede interior, automatic air con, sat nav, rear parking sensors, CD, only 33,170 miles **£9,995**

04 54 FORD Mondeo 2.0 Ghia 5-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with aras ebony interior, front and rear fogs, cruise control, multi cd, quick clear windscreen, only 51,140 miles **£4,995**

04 54 CITROEN C3 stop&start 1.4 5-dr Automatic Hatchback. In silver with blue velour interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, only 29,920 miles **£4,495**

04 04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,495**

04 04 FORD Focus 1.6i 16v Zetec 5-dr Hatchback. In panther black with Saloman black interior, climate pack which includes air con and quick clear heated front screen, alloys, colour coded bumpers, only 83,060 miles **£4,395**

03 03 HONDA Civic Type S 5-dr in clover green met with half leather sports seats, climate control, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, full Honda service history, only 36,030 miles **£5,695**

02 51 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 VVTi GLS Automatic 5-dr in Atlantis blue metallic with hocney interior, alloy wheels, air con, sunroof, cd auto-changer, body coloured bumpers, only 34,790 miles **£3,495**

01 Y AUDI A4 2.0 SE Saloon. In metallic silver with full beige leather interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, electric sunroof, full Audi service history, only 33,005 miles **£4,995**

SMALL

09 09 VAUXHALL 1.4 16v Design (a/c) 5-dr Automatic Hatchback. In black with black interior, cd, alloy wheels, electric mirrors and windows, auto dipping rear view mirror, only 8,020 miles **£10,995**

09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa Club A/C 1.2 16v 5-Dr. In black sapphire, with cable charcoal interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, CD, alarm and immobiliser, auxiliary output, only 18,218 miles **£8,495**

09 09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4 in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C). 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles..... **£8,495**

08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles **£4,995**

07 07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback. In silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles **£6,995**

07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v life (a/c) 3-dr hatchback easy tronic. In metro blue with punch cloth charcoal interior, electric mirrors, air con, immobiliser, service history, only 17,900 miles **£6,495**

06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

06 55 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate 3-dr. In tonic blue with Kyoto ebony interior, air con, quickclear front screen, cd, trip computer, colour coded bumpers, only 41,820 miles..... **£5,295**

06 06 FORD Ka 1.3 Collection. In panther black with Tic-Toc interior, cd, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 30,866 miles..... **£4,195**

03 53 MINI Cooper 1.6 Pepper. In pure silver met with Kaleido half leather interior, panormaic sunroof, alloy wheels, cd, body coloured bumpers, only 49,540 miles **£6,995**

03 03 MINI Cooper Chilli 1.6 3-Dr Hatchback. In pure silver with anthracite/black panther cloth/leather interior, interior light package, chrome line exterior, air con, CD, only 36,975 miles **£6,995**

03 03 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Expression 5-Dr Hatchback. In capsicum red with grey interior, CD, sunroof, power steering, service history, only 58,105 miles **£3,295**

01 51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr. In platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46,010 miles..... **£3,995**

01 Y VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4S 3-dr. In reflex silver met with Pepe interior, sunroof, body coloured bumpers, cd, immobiliser, full VW service history, only 68,350 miles **£3,495**

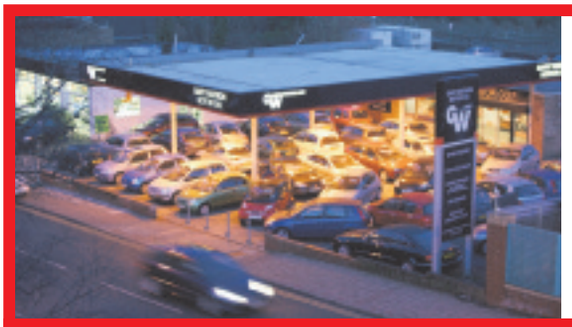
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51 **TOYOTA Celica 1.8VVTi.** In blue, 75,000 miles with glass roof, rear spoiler, etc. **REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**



X **PEUGEOT 206 Roland Garros 5-dr.** Green, suede leather seats, a/con, panoramic roof, 1 lady owner, 47,826 miles **£2,995**



03 **MAZDA MX5 1.8.** In met-blue, great looking car with alloys, cd etc **£5,995**



05 **FORD Street Ka.** Silver, 1 owner, low mileage, very attractive convertible. Reduced by £300 to **£4,995**



02 **PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Convertible** in electric blue, 59,000 miles with a host of extras **£4,695**

SPORT, PRESTIGE & 4X4

07 **MERCEDES CL500 Auto.** In silver with full black leather trim, 25,000 miles, host of extras on this luxury coupe ..... **REDUCED TO £42,995**
05 **MERCEDES CLK 220 CDi Automatic.** In telllluar silver with full leather trim, 60,000 miles **£12,995**
03 **PORSCHE Cayenne 4.5 Auto Tip S** in silver with black leather, 29,000 miles with sat nav, e/s/r, upgraded alloys, fully colour coded **£18,995**
02 **MERCEDES SLK 320 'Designo' Auto** in met blue with full leather trim, 35,000 miles, local convertible at **£9,995**
07 **VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4 Exclusive** in silver, 22,000 miles, full electric metal roof convertible **£8,995**
52 **BMW 318Ci Convertible** in met blue with navy hood, 58,000 miles. On offer at **£8.995**
04 **CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 Coupe.** In ice blue metallic with charcoal leather trim, 44,000 miles **£8,495**
05 **MINI COOPER** In chilli red with chequered flag details, 48,000 miles with Cooper alloys etc. **£7,995**
54 **TOYOTA RAV4 XT2 VVTi 3-dr.** In silver, 32,000 miles, great value 4x4 at **£7,995**
54 **ROVER 75 Contemporary SE CDTi** Silver, 46,000 miles, heated leather seats, air con, CD, comfort with diesel economy **£6,996**
53 **JAGUAR X-Type 2.5SE Auto** in ice blue met with grey leather trim, 46,000 miles **£6,995**
05 **SUZUKI Grand Vitara 2.0 5-dr.** In met-gold, 55,000 miles with a/c, cd, side steps, etc **£5,995**
02 **LEXUS GS300 SE Navigator.** In claret metallic with light grey leather trim, 75,000 miles, looks and drives superb .... **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995**
53 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Convertible.** In electric blue with black hood, 48,000 miles, full electric hood, a/c, CD **£4,995**
02 **BMW 316 SE.** In silver, 78,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£4,695**
02 **PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Convertible** in electric blue, 59,000 miles with a host of extras **£4,695**
03 **MG TF 160.** In silver, 35,000 miles, 2 owners from new, with hard top at **£4,495**
51 **TOYOTA Celica 1.8VVTi.** In blue, 75,000 miles with glass roof, rear spoiler etc ..... **REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
03 **SAAB 95 2.2TDi.** In silver with black leather, 93,000 miles, solid diesel saloon at only **£3,995**
04 **PEUGEOT 406 2.0 HDi S.** In silver, 54,000 miles with sat nav **£3,295**
04 **ALFA ROMEO 156 1.8 Twin Spark Lusso.** In Monza green metallic, 86,000 miles, on offer at **£2,995**

SMALL, ECONOMICAL AND FAMILY CARS

09 **SKODA Fabia TDi2 1.4 5-dr.** 64,000 miles, alloys, air con, makers warranty, £30 road tax, silver **£8,995**
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06 **RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique.** In silver, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, 7 seater **£6,995**
04 **VW Golf 1.6 FSi SE 5-dr.** In met-blue, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, 6-speed, alloys etc **£6,995**
04 **MINI One** in chilli red, 50,000 miles. Local car with a/c, alloys, etc **£6,495**
56 **TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 LX 3-dr.** In silver, 21,000 miles, very sought-after model at **£6,295**
07 **CiTROEN C2 1.6 Code.** In met grey with full leather tan trim, 30,000 miles **£5,995**
56 **FORD Focus 1.6LX Estate.** Black, 20,146 miles, 1 owner, outstanding value **£5,995**
05 **RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.9 DCi Dynamique.** In met grey, 55,000 miles, diesel, 7 seater **£5,995**
05 **FORD Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr.** In silver, 37,000 miles, usual Ghia refinement **£5,995**
54 **FORD Focus C Max 1.6 TDi.** Magnum grey, 36,000 miles, outstanding value & economy **£5,995**
04 **VW Beetle 1.9 TDi.** In light met blue, 80,000 miles with air con **£5,995**
06 **PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi Zenith.** In met grey with full leather trim, climate control, H/S, alloys etc. **£5,695**
04 **TOYOTA Corrolla 2.0 D4D T3 5-dr.** In silver, 54,000 mile diesel with sat-nav ..... **REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495**
07 **RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr.** In steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc ..... **REDUCED BY £1,000 TO £5,495**
55 **NISSAN Primara 2.0 SX 5-dr.** In silver, 35,000 miles with sat-nav, alloys, reversing camera ..... **REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**
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04 **FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Ghia '130bhp'** in black, 62,000 miles. Top of the range diesel at **£4,995**
55 **MITSUBISHI Colt 1.5Di - D Equipe 3-dr.** In met-grey 41,000 miles, diesel hatch with low running costs ..... **REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,695**
55 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 3-dr.** Silver, 47,000 miles with alloys, CD etc. **£4,695**
05 **FORD Mondeo Zetec TDCi.** Tonic blue, 2 owners, very economical family car **£4,495**
55 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In silver, 41,000 miles, air con, alloys etc **£4,495**
55 **VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 Twinport Envoy.** 37,000 miles, much sought after model **£3,995**
06 **MITSUBISHI Colt 1.2 C2i 3-dr.** In light met-blue, 1 owner, CD, e/w, c/l etc. **£3,995**
06 **CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 Sport 3-dr.** In black, with black leather trim, 37,000 miles ..... **REDUCED BY £700 TO £3,995**
54 **RENAULT Clio 1.6 Dynamique 3-dr** in black, 31,000 miles, sunroof and air con **£3,995**
04 **PEUGEOT 206 1.1S 3-dr.** In silver, 32,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c **£3,995**
04 **FIESTA 1.2 LX 3-dr.** In silver, 56,000 miles, alloys, CD etc. **£3,995**
55 **CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 SXi 3-dr.** In black, 39,000 miles, fantastic value at **£3,695**
05 **CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SX.** Silver, 44,500 miles, excellent value family car **£3,695**
04 **RENAULT Laguna Dynamique 1.8 Estate.** Full panoramic roof, silver, tremendous value **£3,495**
53 **FORD Ka Collection.** In sea - frost silver, 47,000 miles, very attractive low mileage car ..... **REDUCED BY £300 TO £2,995**
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53 **FORD Ka 1.3i** In blue, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner ..... **REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,495**
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FORD

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08 08	**GALAXY 2.0 TDCi Zetec Auto.** Electrics, alloys, park assist	£13,495
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GEM sport

HALSE IS NAMED PENCOED CAPTAIN FOR NEW SEASON

PENCOED RFC will be led this season by back row forward Aeron Halse in their quest for a swift return to Division Two.

Halse, who has been chosen as captain by the players, gets a just reward for being arguably Pencoed's most consistent performer in recent seasons.

Retained coaches Kevin Mably and Phil Pinches will look to bring out the best in their relatively young squad who have been working hard on their conditioning in recent weeks.

Training will take place at the Woodlands site every Tuesday and Thursday at 6.30pm.

Pre-season the club are looking to play a local club at a 'chosen level' on Saturday, August 14, at home.

On August 21, the team will play in a tournament at Gilfach Goch, where it is anticipated they will meet the hosts and Pontyclun RFC in games of one-hour duration, an ideal opportunity to view a number of players.

On August 28, the squad take on the 'Black Army' at Llantrisant to complete a busy month of preparation. Players new and old are welcome at the Recreation Ground, a ground which has seen the emergence of 11 Welsh Internationals, and four British Lions, a remarkable contribution to Welsh Rugby.

A new team manager is being sought, and any interested person should contact Terry Rees on 01656 863109. The club will play in Division 3 South West in 2010/11 and open with a home fixture against Glynneath on Saturday, September 4, followed by a visit to old friends Kenfig Hill the following Saturday.

Pencoed Phoenix will enter the senior women's development league during the forthcoming season, with the under-18s playing friendly matches.

Phoenix hold a rugby development day at the club on Sunday, July 18, at 2pm for girls aged 12,13, and 14. All rugby mad girls, who would like to play eventually in this under-15 category, are urged to come along. No experience is necessary.

Pencoed youth is holding a pre-season tournament on August 21.

TR



ABOVE: Caerau, the winners, celebrate at the presentation.

'Street rugby' festival in borough hailed a success

A FESTIVAL of 'Street Rugby' which attracted 60 young people has been hailed as a success.

The event, organised by Wales Rugby League and Safer Bridgend, was held in Waterton, and was won by Caerau Cougars, who beat Sarn 4 tries to 0 in the final with the Cup presented by South Wales Scorpions' prop Liam Roach.

Nantymoel came third and won the Plate after beating Wildmill 3–1.

The best female player award went to Sharlene Williams of Nantymoel, and the best male player was Ieuan Davies of Caerau.

Hannah Richards from Safer Bridgend said: "This is the first festival of four that we have planned over the summer months and it was a great success, with 60 young people playing rugby.

"The goal for us has been to reduce anti-social behaviour and to get children involved in physical activity.

"We are hoping that more young people from Caerau, Nantymoel, Sarn and Wildmill will get involved in the weekly sessions, learn new skills and have fun.

"I'd like to thank Wales rugby league, for all their hard work and commitment, Communities First and Nathaniel's Car Sales for organising the transport, South Wales Police for use of Waterton ground, as well as all staff and volunteers involved in the programme."

Mark Jones, development manager for Wales Rugby League said: "Wales Rugby League would like to replicate the success of Street Rugby in Bridgend and set up the programme in all the Welsh counties. This could then become a national competition."

The next festival has been arranged for Friday, July 23, at 5.30pm with the venue to be confirmed.

In the meantime, weekly coaching sessions in all four areas have been organised. For more information, email Mark or Hannah on mark.jones@cymrurl.com or Hannah.Richards@bridgend.gov.uk.

Results (one point for a try, no conversions): Wildmill 0 Caerau 4; Nantymoel 4 Sarn 1; Caerau 3 Nantymoel 0; Sarn 4 Wildmill 1; Sarn 3 Caerau 2; Nantymoel 3 Wildmill 1.

Third place play-off (Plate final) – Nantymoel 2 Wildmill 1.

Grand final – Sarn 0 Caerau 4.

Ian Golden

New captains at Pyle and Kenfig club



TWO new captains have taken the helm at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club.

The men's captain will be Peter Williams, and the lady captain is Margaret Wood.

Football, boxing and fishing at KPC Youth

KPC Youth, the charity based in Pyle, will be open daily during the school summer holidays from 10am until 3pm daily for 8-to-12-year-olds, and until 5pm for over-13s.

Young people from Bridgend County are all welcome to attend. The programme starts on Monday, July 19 – Friday, August 27.

Evening opening will be Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 5.30pm – 8pm for 8pm-12s, and 8pm – 10pm for 13-plus. Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm – 10pm for ages 13-plus.

During the summer holidays, other activities on offer include a football tournament, ice skating, baseball, basketball, boxing, fishing, a 'Wet 'n' Wild' day with barbecue, an activity weekend and a trip to Oakwood theme park

The centre is located next to Pil Primary School in Pyle, off Pyle Inn Way in Pyle.

Membership is £1.50, with daytime and evening sessions costing £1 per session for members, £1.50 for non-members. For those aged between 13-17, there's even free admission during the half-term holiday if you become a member.

KPC also operates a FREE minibus service which will run a return trip back to Cefn Cribwr and Cornelly on a Tuesday and Thursday night for ages 13-plus – to find out more, call in at the centre, telephone 01656 745399/749219 or email: *kpcyouth@hotmail.com.*

The Athletic plan ahead for new season

AFTER a fine campaign in 2009, Bridgend Athletic's new director of rugby, Paul Yardley, is looking forward to the coming season with a new found confidence and aims to consolidate on last year's joint fourth finish.

Training started for the Athletic seniors and youth on Thursday, July 1, at Newbridge Fields (6.30pm start).

On the coaching front, the senior sides are once again headed by John Apsee, David Williams and conditioning coach Rob Green, with Tony Griff in charge of second team matters.

This season, the second team are being entered into a new league, consisting of east and west first division sides only.

On the playing front, the senior side has retained all but one player from last season's successful campaign, and the club wishes Tom Morgan and his brother Mathew great success with Swansea this year.

Paul Yardley said: "Tom had a fantastic season last year with the senior side, as did Mathew with both with the senior and youth.

"Quite rightly, this has attracted the attention of the premier league coaching teams, with Richard Webster offering Tom and Mathew a squad place with Swansea

"The senior squad is bolstered season after season with our youth products, many of whom are also involved with Osprey age-grade rugby.

"The coaching and management team actively encourage the development and progression of our players to go on to better themselves at a higher level."

New additions to the senior squad see several of last year's championship-winning youth team stepping up to make the grade with the senior team.

These players include forwards such as Lloyd Evans, Morgan Evans and Adam Evans, and some exciting young backs in Rhys Jones, Luke Yardley and Tom Davies .

On the youth front, the club is pleased to announce a new coaching team in place, consisting completely of former players John Docherty, John Nesbitt and Lee Grabham, with a management team of Phil Reece and Mark Davies.

The core of last season's youth is still in place, and it bodes well for another successful season.

For the Firsts, a much tougher campaign this year sees Maesteg and UWIC involved – as well as Bridgend – so spectators can look forward to some exiting matches ahead.

Team manager Paul Hearne has arranged pre-season friendlies against Kidwelly and Ystrad Rhondda, and the club have accepted invitations for two seven-a-side competitions in August.

New Leisure League starts

THE new season in the Bridgend six-a-side football league kicked off with Athletico Brackla leading the way, largely thanks to a Scott Jane hat-trick which helped them to a 5-0 hammering of Bulldogs.

Champions B Attack nearly matched them, beginning their defence with a 4-1 victory over Hangover Heroes.

In division one, Persil Boys realised it was 'Chico Time' and went top after Dominic Chico helped them home 3-0 against Team Extreme, with Young Exiles getting off to a solid start as Justin Dellbridge eased out Minper Phoenix 2-0.

Anyone who wants to join the six-a-side football leagues in Bridgend can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

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